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Near East/South Asia Report

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1 May 1985

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ALGERIA

RESULTS OF FOURTH CONFERENCE ON SOCIALIST BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

UGTA Secretary Comments

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 21-27 Mar 85 p 16

[Interview with Tayeb Benlakhdar, secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers, by Z. Ferroukhi; date and place not specified]

[Text] ALGERIE ACTUALITE: Is it possible to make a preliminary assessment of the Fourth National Conference on GSE [Socialist Management of Businesses]?

T. Benlakhdar: Before all else, it must be said that in itself, the holding of this Fourth National Conference on GSE represents a big success for many reasons.

First of all, this conference has just provided clear proof once again of all the interest and attention being accorded by the Political Directorate, under the leadership of brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, to the consolidation and periodic enrichment of socialist gains.

In the second place, and along the same lines, this conference is also a success in that it challenges all the spiteful rumors, maneuvers, and schemes of those who, operating on the fringes of the revolutionary process, have tried in vain to sow doubt and confusion concerning the future of GSE and the ability of the workers to fully assume the role that is theirs in carrying out the tasks of national construction.

Making a preliminary assessment of this Fourth National Conference on GSE means, first of all, stressing the responsible democracy, unity in thought and orientation, and cohesion and coordination of effort that were shown by all the participants in this conference. That approach showed from the start the determination of each individual to work dispassionately and in a constructive and effective manner to ensure the achievement of convincing results capable of lifting GSE to the level required by the political, economic, and social demands of national development.

The result was that the conference avoided all futile legal or theoretical quarrels and centered its attention on thorough reflection concerning the best

means and conditions for ensuring that in practice, GSE would follow faithfully and fully the lines laid down for it by the spirit and ultimate purpose of the texts--that is, that it would assert itself simultaneously as a factor for the worker's advancement and emancipation, as a basic tool for national economic development, and as the most appropriate framework for mobilizing the workers on behalf of production.

On this subject, I will lay very particular stress on the great political maturity of the union and management cadres, who demonstrated, during the debates and in the work in committee, their strong support for the principles of the National Charter, the resolutions of the Fifth FLN Party Congress, and the presidential directives.

In conclusion, I will also stress the fact that the work of this conference was enhanced by the presence of our brother belonging to the Political Bureau who heads the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, our brothers belonging to the Permanent Secretariat, and representatives of the government, whose speeches provided important guidelines for the conference [sentence garbled in the text].

ALGERIE ACTUALITE: What were the dominant topics at the Fourth National Conference on Development?

T. Benlakhdar: I believe that you will find a complete answer to your question in all the documents coming out of the conference.

I can say, however, that in any case, most of the topics it dealt with were centered on the need to improve and enrich GSE with a view to adapting it to the political, economic, and social realities of the moment through correct assimilation of the spirit and ultimate purpose of this form of management.

With that in mind, very special attention was paid to a reexamination of ways and means capable of giving the proper significance--in the field of reality--to the notion of worker participation in the management of our national enterprises.

The need to introduce more efficiency and coherence into the operation of GSE's organizations was also emphasized at the conference.

Among the dominant topics, we also need to mention the prominent place assigned to the human component. This enabled the participants in the conference to emphasize the efforts and means that must be mobilized in the future to ensure better political training, competence, and real aptitude on the part of all those called on to assume responsibility within our enterprises.

Lastly, the problem of strengthening and expanding GSE was also at the center of the debates.

In this connection, it is useful to point out that that strengthening and that expansion, if implemented in accordance with the basic texts, should obviously

take into account the specific nature of each sector of activity concerned with GSE.

Excerpt From National Charter

"Management structures, whether concerned with socialist enterprise, self-management, or cooperatives, are, on the other hand, and by their very nature, perfectible and consequently subject to change. They do not represent immutable dogma. This means that those structures may be amended, improved, or altered as a result of experience, new objectives to be achieved, the development of productive forces, a greater degree of maturity in the social awareness of the workers, and further progress in all its forms."

Conference Resolutions

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19 Mar 85 p 2

[Resolution adopted at the Fourth National Conference on GSE, in Algiers in March 1985]

[Text] Palace of Nations (APS)--The participants in the Fourth National Conference on Socialist Management of Businesses, who concluded their work on Sunday evening at the Palace of Nations, adopted a resolution on general policy.

The resolution notes with satisfaction and pride the festivities marking the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the start of the glorious Revolution of 1 November.

The participants salute the 29th anniversary of the founding of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] and the 14th anniversary of the nationalization of the petroleum industry, and they pay tribute to the considerable effort made by the workers at all levels of the national economy.

The resolution also salutes the encouraging results achieved at the Third Conference on Development and expresses satisfaction with the Political Directorate's working method, which consists of making a periodic evaluation of efforts and dealing with problems within the framework of dialogue and consultation.

The resolution notes with satisfaction the calm dialogue that prevailed during the work of the fourth conference on GSE and calls for a strengthening of GSE in the public sector.

The resolution on general policy stresses the importance of training at all levels.

Rigorous selection of competent, honest, and committed officials to head the institutions constitutes a sure guarantee that the laws will be implemented and respected, says the resolution, which also states that the policy of decentralization and territorial organization will strengthen management of the country's economy.

It also expresses satisfaction at the promulgation of the Workers General Statute, implementation of which will put an end to the disparities between workers and between sectors of industry.

In conclusion, the resolution expresses the determination to combat every evil which may harm national development and the mobilization of all workers around the Political Directorate headed by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party.

The conference also adopted a number of documents prepared by committees set up for the purpose.

The participants in the Fourth National Conference on GSE adopted the recommendations of the committee on organizations, reading as follows:

1. Workers Assembly

A. Makeup

It has been found that the effectiveness of the workers assemblies depends more on the quality than the quantity of their membership. As a consequence, it is advisable to pursue any action tending to improve the efficiency level of the ATE's [Enterprise Workers Assemblies] and ATU's [Plant Workers Assemblies], in particular by pursuing specific activities aimed at the active and broad mobilization of cadres within the UGTA and the workers assemblies and by:

Seeing to it that the requirements for the good management of all functions within the enterprise be made the effective responsibility of appropriate representatives.

B. Quality of Members

Only members belonging to the union and possessing a level of training and experience consistent with the requirements of the mission to be accomplished should be eligible.

C. Term of Office

To enable assembly members to attain better mastery of the technical, economic, financial, and human data in their unit and therefore to participate more actively and productively in management, it is advisable to increase their term of office to 4 years.

D. Suspension and Dissolution of a Workers Assembly

When an ATU has been suspended or dissolved in accordance with regulations, transfer to the supervising ministry must be approved by the "muhafadha" of the party and UGTA for the territory in question.

E. Operation of Unit and Enterprise During Vacancy of a Workers Assembly

The appropriate authorities are called in to ensure that activity by the workers assembly is in no case interrupted for more than 2 months.

During that interval, the directorate will, through dialogue and consultation with the UGTA, see to it that management decisions necessitated by the requirements of production are made.

F. Workers Assembly and Union Council

To ensure a good understanding of the way in which the prerogatives of workers assemblies [AT's] are to be exercised and of the mission and means of action assigned to union councils [CS's], a circular has been prepared by the CNGSE [National Commission for the Socialist Management of Businesses], and the central union organization will specify the prerogatives and means of action assigned to that entity in its capacity as AT and as CS.

G. Specific Case of Big Complexes and Units With Dispersed Workplaces

In big complexes and units with dispersed workplaces, the AT has not always acted with the speed and effectiveness required by GSE. Since a number of decisions requiring the AT's opinion could not be reached at the decentralized levels of responsibility, it has been necessary to refer the matters in question to a complex's management, resulting in delays or even bringing things to a standstill. It would be advisable to provide specific rules for operations by GSE organizations in units of this type.

2. Management Council

Out of a concern to improve the functioning of management councils, it is advisable to pay attention above all to the quality of the entire makeup of those councils.

As regards the weekly meetings, such meetings have been held in some cases only to comply with the letter of the regulations.

To remedy this situation, the units must draw up meeting schedules based on the actual volume of business to be conducted, seeing to it that such meetings are held at least twice a month.

The effective functioning of management councils also requires compliance with all operating rules, including the need to keep a record of debates.

Efficient analysis of the various problems concerned with operation of the unit or enterprise also requires that committee chairmen be invited to participate in meetings by the management councils when matters on the agenda concern them.

B. General Assembly of Organizations

It is noted that there is an absence of provisions relative to the holding of general assemblies by organizations. The need has arisen to establish, if only in a general manner, the conditions and procedures for meetings of workers' general assemblies. It is also advisable to specify their scope and, when necessary, to provide for followup on the conclusions reached at the end of those meetings.

C. Coordination

To strengthen coordination and stimulate production, meetings could be held every 6 months, with the CDE's [Enterprise Management Councils], CDU's [Plant Management Councils], and chairmen of the ATE's getting together to review the progress made toward achievement of the production objectives and the status of projects and to decide on actions to be taken to improve performance.

D. Management Council Decisions

For the purpose of ensuring implementation of the decisions reached by a management council, each member of the said council must prepare a note indicating the steps taken by the structure he heads or the body he represents. That note must be read and approved at the management council meeting and retained in the files so as to ensure that implementation of the steps outlined is followed up.

3. Committees

A. The unit committees are required to draw up annual work programs and to make it a strict rule to prepare quarterly activity reports to be sent to the ATU, the ATE, the CDU, and the CDE.

B. Specific Training for Committee Members

Each committee member is required to undergo training related to the areas with which he will have to deal (economy, finance, management of human resources, and so on).

The Ministry of Vocational Training is to be responsible, in cooperation with the UGTA and the ministries concerned, for preparing curricula and organizing training courses.

C. The measures advocated above:

Are of a nature to improve the operation of the committees. In the case of some units, however, it is advisable to consider the regrouping of certain committees.

As far as the committee for social and cultural activities is concerned, it is recommended that it be relieved of direct management duties which, according to the texts in effect, are to be carried out by the appropriate organizations appointed for that purpose.

4. External Organizations

A. CNGSE

Despite certain deficiencies and weakness noted in its operation, the CNGSE has been and remains an indispensable tool for the implementation, consolidation, and adaptation of GSE.

Only a structure of that nature, comprising general managers, unit managers, chairmen of ATE's and ATU's, and representatives of the party, the UGTA, and the supervising ministries, is capable, through responsible dialogue and consultation among the parties concerned, of stimulating a convergence of efforts and means for correcting the inadequacies noted, consolidating positive points, and seeing to the GSE's adaptation to political, economic, and social developments.

It is advisable, however, to ensure that quality is favored over quantity and to be sure that each member is rigorously selected and that he competently and seriously carries out the noble mission thus entrusted to him.

The CNGSE's annual work program should include series of lectures to which unit managers, general managers, and chairmen of ATU's and ATE's are invited.

Lectures given by CNGSE members will help keep GSE on its proper ideological path [sentence garbled in text].

B. National Operational Commission (CNO): As a component of the CNGSE, the CNO and its decentralized organizations must comply with the same requirements as those laid down above. However, the CNO's prerogatives and its methods of intervention must be reviewed.

C. Governorate Election Committee

The decision by a governorate election committee with respect to validation or nonvalidation must absolutely be reached within 1 week from the date on which the matter is submitted to it. If an answer is not given within that time, validation is assumed to have been granted unless there is disagreement within the candidate committee in the unit concerned.

D. Unit Candidate Committee

Since the smooth operation of GSE organizations depends to a very large extent on the quality of AT members, it is important that the members of the candidate committee responsible for selecting candidates "be the best of the best" and

that they fulfill all the required conditions for making a good choice, those conditions being:

- a) Acquaintance with the candidates.
- b) Integrity.
- c) Objectivity.
- d) Political commitment.

The consequence of poor choices may be the failure of GSE and negative effects on the operation of the enterprises. It is imperative to appoint to the candidate committees only those who offer the greatest guarantees of successful operations. In their functioning, it is preferable that the committees work according to the rule of consensus.

E. Coordinating Councils

It has been pointed out that Decree No 75-56 relative to the coordinating councils of socialist enterprises has never been implemented in practice. It would be advisable now in particular, following the restructuring of the enterprises, to see to it that coordinating organizations are established as provided by the decree.

5. General Environment

Clarifications are necessary to specify the prerogatives, means, and methods of action of each organization and each body so as to enable them to fulfill their roles, with due regard for the prerogatives of the management organizations and the principles governing the decentralization of management autonomy.

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ALGERIA

INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LONG NEGLECTED ROAD SYSTEMS

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 8-14 Mar 85 pp 26-30

[Article by "A.M."]

[Text] A nation's economic and social development cannot really be imagined without the presence of means of communications among its various regions. You cannot, on the face of it, measure the dimensions of a country's progress without looking at the basic infrastructures at its disposal. These, as their name indicates, are one of the necessities of life. Among these infrastructures indispensable to a nation's economy, the network of roads and highways, long neglected, is emerging in splendor with the passing of the years into an impressive system of well-traveled arteries.

While eschewing an excess of counterfeit satisfaction at the sight of completion of thousands of kilometers of roads at the national level, it would be unfair not to admit that the public works sector has exerted -- and is still putting forth -- intensive effort in this vitally important area. Achievements those who manage the sector still deem inadequate despite the scope of the projects that have been undertaken over the last 5 years. It is true that highway construction calls for enormous material resources and for the input of many agents including the human element, the prime resource which seems, according to those in the ministry concerned, to be conspicuous by its absence in some localities. These same officials constantly complain that the sector for which they are responsible is not attracting many young cadres. And it is true that public works does not sound overly enticing as a field in which to build a career. Is it a question of motivation? of prospects for the future? Or a combination of both, perhaps? And yet this kind of work is not exactly devoid of interest, or, for that matter, of enticing fringe benefits: far from it. How, then, do we explain this worrisome shortage of recruits? Whatever it may be, it is up to those whose job is to foster and advance the sector to come to grips with this problem by devising programs that will attract our young workers, and especially by showing them that we trust them, that we are ready to rely on them.

However, despite the fact that present manpower levels far short of the need, we are witnessing these days a full-scale re-deployment of the sector's activities. The results achieved, which are certainly tonic to the national economy, are there to prove it. The people in charge at the Public Works Ministry, figures in hand, make no secret of their satisfaction, even though a great deal remains to be done, "particularly by way of building roads through the mountains and putting the people there, in every village, in a position to communicate with the rest of the country."

This is how it has come to pass that, at the term of the period of completion of the first 5-Year Plan, the state of the national road system has gradually improved. Its density has greatly intensified, which is to be seen most clearly reflected in the real takeoff of certain sectors which depend upon it. Their growth, if not their very existence, is contingent upon its growth, and hence there is no question but that this road system must be at the center of concern in government.

Since 1980, the road system that is the *raison d'être* for all kinds of transport, has been steadily expanding. What with rebuilding, maintenance, and construction of new roads, be they national, wilaya, or local, the sector has chalked up more than 15,800 kilometers in the space of 5 years by redeploying its operations, or more than 27 percent of what already existed (see Table 1).

This development, accompanied by what is quite legitimate satisfaction among those responsible for the sector, because it constitutes a real achievement for our economy as a whole, nevertheless looks slow when measured against the startlingly swift growth in sheer numbers of motor vehicles in this country. Over the span of the Plan (1980-1984) their numbers rose to more than 400,000 vehicles, a 66-percent increase (see Table 2).

All that adds up to a frightening figure when you consider the existing road space: a million vehicles, 80 percent of them small cars, are rolling along 73,800 kilometers of roads -- theoretically. However, the real distribution is something else again. The fact is that since the nation's main economic activities are concentrated in the big cities, highway traffic has no option but to adapt to this *de-facto* situation. To back up those statements let's talk statistics. 10 percent of the existing road system carries 90 percent of the traffic. That, in fact, is the explanation for the traffic tieups in the big cities, particularly in the capital, even though the worst of them are beginning to thin out thanks to new and, it must be admitted, salutary improvements. Again according to the statistics, highway traffic is heaviest in the coastal regions where we find 68 percent of it concentrated, with 28 percent on the High Plateaux, and only a paltry 4 percent in the South. This is quite understandable, since the prime motivation for building a road is the economic clout of the region that wants it.

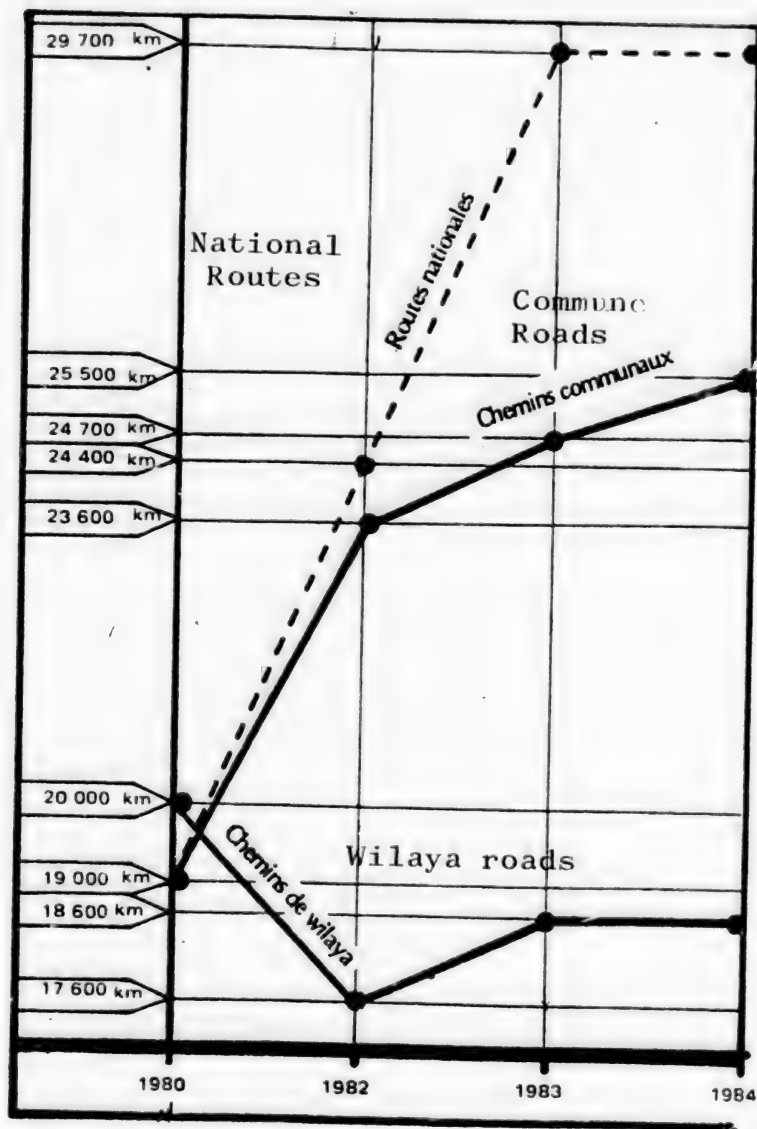


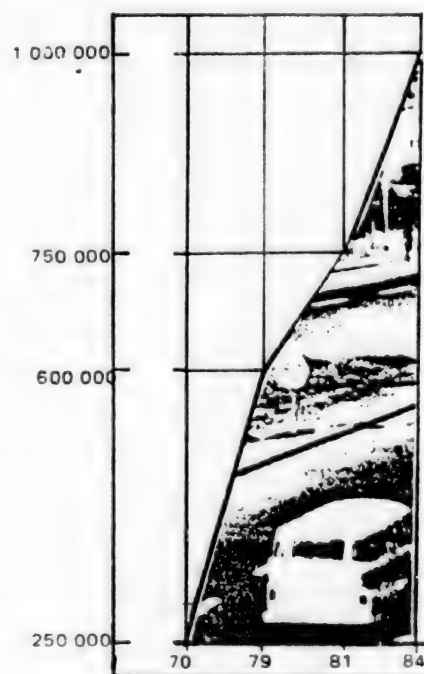
Table 1.

Current Growth Trend
in Road and Highway
System

Table 2.

Growth Pattern in numbers
of motor vehicles using
the roads: 1970-1984*

* Most are light-weight
vehicles.



* Dont 30 % de véhicules légers.

Since this is the case, the economic importance of a region grows, and that is why we cannot allow it to become the sole prerogative of the North. How, when you get down to it, are we to rescue the populations of the South or the High Plateaux from deprivation and isolation, except by building avenues of communication that reach toward them?

The government has grasped this axiom. "Some commendable efforts will be committed in this direction," they tell you at the Public Works Ministry (MTP). Of recent years these efforts have aimed primarily at development, with emphasis on the transport infrastructure in the enclave regions. And this is only fair, for that matter, when you consider the preponderant role of surface transport by comparison with other modes (maritime, air, rail).

Algeria's Highways

Eastern Highway.....	15 Km
Interchanges, feeders.....	23 Km
Zeralda-Hamiz southern bypass.....	47 Km
Feeder-roads.....	34 Km
Oued Ouchaieh radial.....	9 Km
Highways.....	71 Km
Interchanges.....	65 Km
Number of access and exit points.....	33
Number of bridges	100
Bridge surface.....	150,000 m ² or 15 hectares
Reinforced concrete required.....	320,00 m ³
Steel required.....	35,000 T
Total length of piles driven.....	40,000 m (long.)
Earth moving: clearing.....	6,000,000 m ³
Earth moving: fill.....	8,300,000 m ³
Tufa and rubble for roadbed.....	1,000,000 m ³
Blacktopping.....	1,400,000 T
Number of vertical direction signs.....	2,500
Total investments: approximately 3.5 million D.A.	

So, altogether, 84 percent of all surface transport of goods (aside from those in pickup trucks) and more than 85 percent of group passenger travel aside from private vehicles use the road system. For the past decade, highway traffic has increased by an average 11 percent each year. The underpinning of the system runs along two principal axes: East-West and North-South. The East-West axis consists of the Maghnia-Oran-Algiers-Constantine-Annaba-El-Kala connection. Attached to this are three other links: the one that crosses the coastal region, the one that scales the High Plateaux south of the Tell Atlas, and the third leads to the Saharan South. The main North-South axes link the Northern portion of the country with the High Plateaux zone, and extends from there to the South:

- Oran-Bechar-Tindouf connexion
- Algiers Tamanrasset-Niger-Mali connection
- Annaba-Constantine-In Salah-Djanet axis.

It should be noted that during the first 5-Year Plan, road construction improved considerably. Public Works initiatives centered on modernizing or building 5,000 kilometers of national highways, a formidable task, plus 6,000 km of Wilaya roads and 5,000 km of commune roads. Among these achievements we must include 112 engineering projects completed in record time, in view of the scope of this sort of undertaking which requires huge amounts of heavy equipment and very high levels of skill.

Algiers Breathes Easier

Among all these achievements, we should remark, among others, the opening of the strategic North-South arteries. That involved the 50 kilometers between Chiffa and Berouaghia, the tunnels along the Bejala-Kherrata-Setif axis, and the 40 kilometers reaching from Boudouaou to Lakhdaria, and, lastly, the Jijel-Constantine highway. These strategic arteries had always been a problem for the many drivers who used them. In addition, we should mention the extension of the access routes across the Sahara, built to rescue its peoples from isolation.

However, what best illustrates the laudable efforts of the Public Works sector is unquestionably its magnificent achievements in the capital region.

For several months now, thanks to the ambitious program that calls for building broad channels for funnelling off and directing traffic away from the region's urban districts, Algeria is breathing easier these days. Traffic to the East as well as to the South of the capital, which was a real problem only a year ago, is only a painful memory now. What has been accomplished in this region affects everybody.

We cite this: modernization of the existing arteries between Algiers and Bilda,

- National Highway I (Birkhadem-Oued Kerma)
- National Highway 5 (Boudouaou-Lakhdaria)
- the bypass around Boufarik,
- completion of 53 kilometers of road and 29 structural engineering projects.

There are other projects under way: construction of another 57 kilometers of roads, as well as of an outer beltway consisting of the South Bypass from Zeralda to Ben- Aknoun (20 km), which is extended by a 7-kilometer access-road that takes drivers to the Bir-Mourad Rais intersection. Then there is the 20-km of freeway between that neighborhood and Dar-El-Beida and National Highway 5 over the 40-kilometer stretch from Boudouaou-Lakhdaria. And lastly there is the Eastern Highway that runs from Pont des Fusilles along the seashore to Dar-El-Beida and merges with the South Bypass after a 15-kilometer drive. These two highways will be connected by radials: the axial road from Annassers between the Pont des Fusilles interchange and the one at Garidi (formerly Kouba), while the radial from Oued Ouchaieh between the Eastern Highway and the Southern Bypass and National Highway 38 as far as Oued Kerma, a 10-kilometer stretch, while the Oued Koriche (Frais Vallon) radial will be extended in the lower portion (National Highway 11) and toward the South over the section between Chevalley and the South Bypass.

All these operations, already partially paid for, were included in the first Plan. Completion of them will come during the second development plan, which assigned special importance to the vital Public Works sector.

On Our Own

Yet another reason for pride and satisfaction is that most of the work on these giant projects was planned and carried out by Algerian companies. The gold medal goes, beyond any doubt, to our National Highway Construction Company (SONATRO). That company had a hand in more than 50 percent of the highway program in the Algiers region. Right now, half the Eastern highway program is under its aegis, in view of the experience this Algerian company has accumulated.

As for the bridges, viaducts, and tunnels, etc., whose design and construction call for advanced technology and total mastery of every aspect of the job, a very active role was played, even so, by several Algerian companies, such as the Algerian Bridge and Engineering Company (SAPTA), the National Major Engineering Company (ENGOA), or the Engineering Design and Construction Company (SEROA). However, when their capabilities were not adequate to take over such projects completely, some foreign companies with sufficient experience with the work were on hand to replace them.

That is what happened in the construction of National Highway 5 from Boudouaou to Lakhdaria, on some stretches of the Eastern Highway, and some of the work on the South Bypass between Birkhadem

and Dar-El-Beida, which relied on a complex technology and on gigantic mechanical equipment. It must be said that the activity of Algerian staff personnel, working side by side with these foreign companies, was not overlooked. Algerian engineers and technicians, thus brought into contact with foreign experts, would not fail to hone their own skills or to acquire experience that would stand them in good stead when, in later years, they would be involved in similar projects. However, these Algerian-trained specialists, despite all their demonstrated good will, are still few in number. The public works sector, according to ranking Ministry officials, is terribly short of cadres, to the point where, in some places, engineer's duties are performed by a technician! Despite all the efforts by Algeria's schools to provide the sector with enough trained people, there are still severe and detrimental shortages.

The National School for Public Works Engineers, located at Kouba (Algiers), the only national institution of its kind, cannot meet the sector's cadre requirements. That is a finding similar to one made at the school of applied engineering in Oran. By way of example, in 5 years these two institutes have provided the sector with a very small number of cadres (640 graduates). The schools that are supposed to train technicians have much the same record: they have turned out 1,474 technicians in 5 years (see Table 3).

The finding released by the MTP is edifying indeed. "The combined capacity of all training structures is 2,972, as opposed to an actual enrolment level of 2,176 as of 20 November 1984, or an enrolment rate overall of 73 percent of capacity. As of 1985, the sector's requirements will come to 1,500 engineers, 2,000 top technicians, and 2,600 mid-level technicians and cadres.

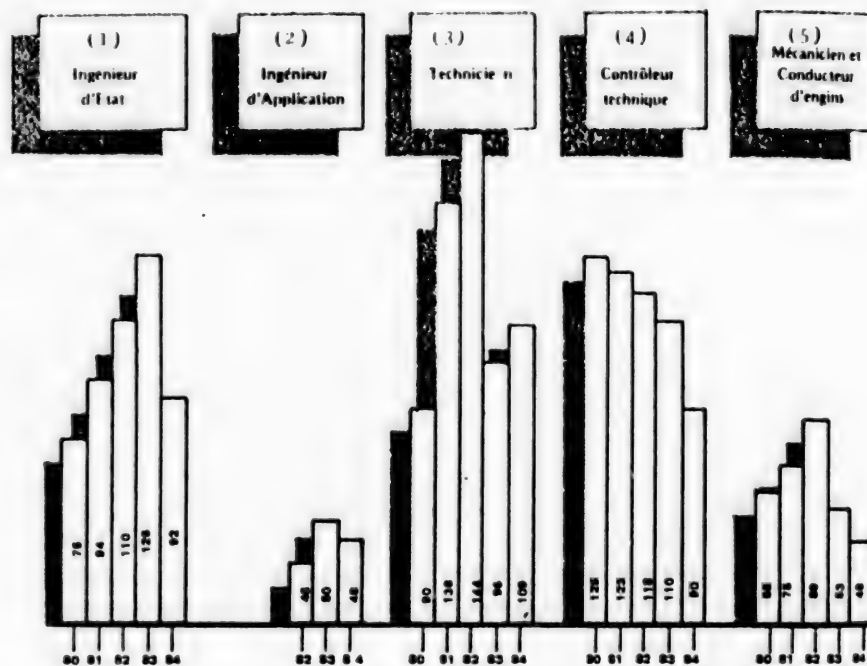
"In view of the major requirements needed to take over major programs for projects already planned, the current numbers of technical cadres are still inadequate, particularly now that the restructuring of companies and study offices serving the sector has brought to light specific needs at the level of certain regions in the country, which were hitherto devoid of the means for conducting studies and completing projects."

Promising Outlook

To alleviate these shortfalls, MTP has decided to take some new approaches to redeploy the sector and to redimension the training facilities. Plans in fact call for doubling the classroom and laboratory facilities in cadre-training schools and to upgrade the quality of teaching available currently.

Several very large projects which call for skilled staff in adequate numbers are included in the second 5-Year Plan for public works. These projects are aimed at "restructuring the highway system in such a way as to culminate in a sufficiently dense and balanced communications system, efficaciously participating in

TABLE 3. The bottom line for Public Works career training from 1980 to 1984 shows a total of qualified cadres from all schools of 2,114 graduates, distributed as follows;



Total: 640 engineers and 1,474 technicians.

Key:

- (1) Civil Engineering
- (2) Applied Engineering
- (3) Technician
- (4) Technical supervisor
- (5) Motorized equipment mechanic and driver

the enhancing of fluidity in the economy and motivated at all times by the concerns of bringing the whole of the country up to suitable standards and of harmonious and balanced development of every region in the country."

In this order of ideas a number of medium- and long-term goals are contemplated. Their achievement will most certainly transform the face of our regions, beginning with the quality of life provided their citizens. Remote localities that were hard to reach, a few years ago, have today become more likely to engage in diverse activities. Others have almost completely emerged from their isolation and privation. The great boon of the highway system requires no further proof.

There are in fact some promising perspectives for the sector in this second Plan. Noteworthy among them are: "completion of the highway and road network in the North, where projects involving construction of 150 kilometers of urban and suburban roads around Algiers, Annaba, and Oran are already well under way." The plan for action assigns priority, of course, to the sections of the system most heavily overloaded at present. MTP is also considering "completion of the updating planned for the North-South radials, especially in the mountainous zones of the Tell Atlas, to encourage redeployment of activities onto the High Plateaux."

Along with this, the plan calls for "continuing the modernization or expansion of the other East-West radials pending completion of the North Highway and improving East-West connections on the High Plateaux."

Lastly, studies are under way to put together a long-range plan centering on construction of 1,300 kilometers of highways running directly from Annaba to Algiers to Tlemcen. Work on this vast program will be spread over a period of 20 years.

6182

CSO: 4519/115

ALGERIA

AGRICULTURAL PLAN WORKING TOWARD FOOD SECURITY

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 8-14 Mar 85 pp 34-35

[Article by K. Chehrit]

[Text] News of our first exports -- in a decade -- of vegetables to Europe must not be allowed to overshadow the scope of the challenge facing Algeria in the matter of production, self-sufficiency, and, finally, upgrading the food we grow. The success or failure of the agricultural policy adopted in 1980 in the light of guidelines laid down at the extraordinary FLN Congress and of the decisions taken at the third session of the FLN's Central Committee, which was devoted to agriculture, will in fact be decided within a few years, when we come to "measure" our real level of self-sufficiency in food commodities, particularly cereal grains, dried vegetables, and flours. That makes the battle on this front the more crucial, since the human and financial resources involved are tremendous and the planning rigorous and rational.

Hence, while the fruits and vegetables fight is well on its way to success with the regular reports of surpluses of many products on the market and their energetic return to the international market, the battle for food security and self-sufficiency in the broader sense is not an easy one. First, we had to take a long, hard look at all the constraints that weighed upon the sector, both institutional and material. It took many long years to restructure the sector, provide it with efficient independent structures of its own and with the requisite financial means.

The seriousness of dependency on others for food has restored agriculture to its proper place and priority, and to do this required a new start that could not be made without building solid foundations and ongoing support for the sector by the political leadership, which certainly has not stinted in providing all sorts of incentives and means to help this vital sector, left very far in the background for nearly two decades in favor of a development strategy centering primarily on industry. This was reflected in a real devaluation of the farmer's calling and a steady decline in agriculture's share of GNP. At the end of

CERAL GRAIN PRODUCTION: in millions of quintals

	3 years 67 - 69	1st 4-yr 70 - 73	2d 4-yr 74-77	Period 79 - 83
Plan targets	20	23.4	24	30
Mean annual production	18.6	19.3	18.9	19.6
Mean annual imports	6.2	7.8	17.3	26
Yields in Qx per capita	6.5	6.0	6.2	6.0

IMPORTS' SHARE IN MEETING NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

	67-69	70-73	74-77	79-82
Cereal Grains	28%	29%	50%	65%
Dried Vegetables	12%	8%	40%	85%
Eggs	4%	35%	47%	75%

Source: O.N.S. [Office of National Statistics] and MPAT [Ministry of Planning and National Development]

EXPENDITURES ON PRICE SUPPORTS FOR FOOD COMMODITIES (billions DA)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Cereal grains	1078	1410	1052	1200	1400
Flours, Semolinas	0393	0435	0483	0180	0175
Vegetable Oils	0349	0436	0428	0600	0400
T O T A L	1820	2281	1963	1980	1975

1982, revenues derived from agriculture represented only 6.8 percent of total revenues.

That is all wrong for a country whose first vocation is agriculture.

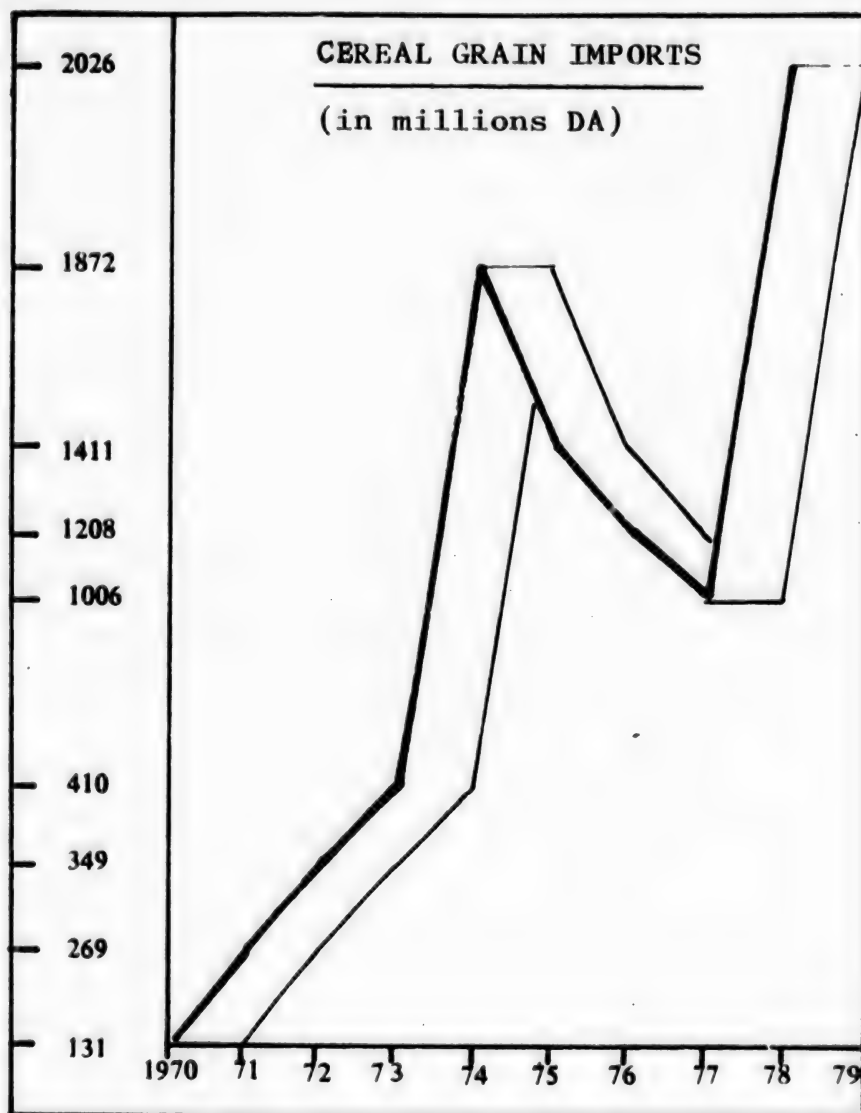
Now, though, what we have to do is, first to understand and master, and then to reverse some of these unhealthy trends that are so very detrimental to a developing country. The rate of coverage of needs by national production must rise to the very top, and the sooner the better. Thus far, in 1983, the coverage rates were only 75 percent for red meats, 62 percent for dried vegetables, 50 percent for cereal grains, and less than 10 percent for the oil-yielding crops. Food imports right now account for more than 20 billion dinar, a fourth of our total imports. There you have a noxious effect on a country that must above all funnel its potential into the accumulation of other assets, technologies, durable goods, and the like, and which must cope with the serial somersaults of an international crisis which relentlessly bullies the weakest.

Substantial Funding for Cereal Grain Production

Increasing production of cereal grains stands out as a priority thrust in the new agricultural policy designed to break out of the hard constraints and threats posed by the wielders of "food power." A great many efforts are currently oriented toward production of cereal grains, with emphasis on wheat.

The funding that must be found to succeed in this sector is not modest, since the constraints are bigger and the work must be rationalized and oriented mainly to the medium term. This program aims at intensifying cereal grain production and science has been summoned to the rescue of this new policy that pursues ways to achieve better performance all around. A serious effort at innovation, mainly through mechanization, has been launched for the specific purpose of getting yields per hectare approaching those of the major grain producers. The same means used, for example, by Bulgaria, which gets yields of 55 quintals per hectare, must immediately be made available to Algeria's grain-fields, if they are to break out of the stagnation that has kept yields for several years languishing at a mere 6 to 8 quintals per hectare. No less effort is devoted to soil improvement and the adaptation of varieties of grains to improve their performance.

As part of this approach, support structures have been provided for grain production as part of a program to encourage and upgrade it. Conditions around the production units are now designed to favor improved yields: timely delivery of high-quality seed, provision of equipment, better supplies of fertilizers and plant-protection products, etc.



All these efforts aim at meeting the production target of 26 million quintals, set by the current 5-year Plan. This target, while it is certainly ambitious, is not impossible. The start of a real process of modernizing our agriculture and the presence of new and more efficient work-methods, combined with almost unlimited funding, make it legitimate to predict a real boom in Algerian agriculture, allowing it to regain its quondam lustre. It is not merely a question of a living: from now on, it is a political challenge, the idea of political independence being utterly inseparable from our position vis-a-vis the wielders of that redoubtable green power who can bring it to bear at any moment to make us vulnerable to the worst kind of blackmail, forced concessions, and humiliation.

6182

CSO: 4519/115

EGYPT

PRISONER CONVICTED IN AL-JIHAD CASE INTERVIEWED

Cairo AL-NUR in Arabic 27 Feb 85 p 7

[Interview with 'Abbud al-Zumr by Ahmad al-Suyufi in Cairo: "We Announce Our Rejection of the Pagan Civil Laws Under Which We Were Tried"; date not specified]

[Text] AL-NUR penetrated the walls of the Egyptian prisons to meet with intelligence [officer] Lt Col 'Abbud al-Zumr who was sentenced to 40 years in the al-Jihad organization case.

AL-NUR went on a journey into 'Abbud al-Zumr's mind, asking him about several important issues, including his attitude toward al-Jihad case verdicts and the role and dimensions of al-Jihad organization.

A talk with 'Abbud al-Zumr is interesting and stimulating. The secret of such stimulation is that he is behind bars and has opened the door for a voice in the prison dungeon to express itself.

[Question] Who are you and what do you advocate?

[Answer] We are the natural extension and the true continuity of the struggling Islamic movement. The group was founded by Muhammad Abd-al-Faraj, whom I joined in 1979. After we finished drawing up the general outlines of the ideas and the conception of the movement with great efforts and joint work, we began where our predecessors, the likes of Sayyid Qutub and Salih Sariyah, God rest their souls, had left off to continue the march.

We began our work, which was marked by strength and clarity, in confronting the various forms and shapes of pre-Islamic paganism. We call upon people everywhere to a true Islamic understanding as our worth ancestors understood it. Our purpose is to please God Almighty and restore the Islamic caliphate to the prophetic path. Our method for realizing this purpose does not accept any truce, hypocrisy or the sharing of existing power in the country. Therefore, we are working through all legal means of the Call--enjoining the right and forbidding the wrong--and the Jihad for the sake of God based on several foundations and mainstays, from which we will not deviate. They are: pre-conception, belief, scientific planning and administration, universal adherence and application and radical revolutionary change in all the various aspects of life, taking into account our present reality and setting up an Islamic alternative which we are seeking to establish in place of the pagan regimes.

[Question] Is there a way to unify the great number of Islamic groups in the arena?

[Answer] The absence of the Islamic caliphate from human leadership is the main reason for the great number of Islamic groups. Its return will provide the proper climate for molding Islamic minds to move in one direction, thus unifying efforts and eliminating the regional boundaries created, undoubtedly, by the colonizers. In short, this multiplicity stems from disagreements in the way the Islamic state is to be set up, but, thank God, there is no disagreement over the objective. Everyone agrees that the establishment of the Islamic state is a legal duty we are striving to realize in accordance with our abilities, capabilities and assessment of our present reality.

We believe that efforts must be unified in compliance with the Almighty's orders to "hold fast, all together, and be not divided" and out of our conviction that the Islamic movement is in dire need of the efforts of every member in it, no matter how small or significant this effort may be. It needs every man and woman, every scholar and fighter, every advocate and legalist, every soldier and commander, each in his place. We must all strive to realize this. This can actually be done, but it needs more patience, confidence and sincere intentions. It needs those who possess a disciplined movement and conception of the true revelation and who circumscribe this framework. It needs one to take the initiative in order that it may be one international movement able to realize its goals. We ask God for help and success.

[Question] Do you perceive any relationship between nationalism and Islam?

[Answer] Nationalism is a form of racism rejected by Islam. It aids and supports people for the sole reason of being affiliated with them by kinship, language, location or race. As for Islam, it is a universal call for all people and its bond is based on an ideological foundation, for loyalty is to the friends of God, regardless of how far the kinship, how different the language or how remote the place may be and enmity is to the enemies of God even if they were my closest kin.

The nationalist call is nothing but a false slogan propagated and promoted by the colonizers to make it easier on them to destroy the Islamic nation, after wrenching it from the Islamic band which is the source of their strength and pride, and to transform the nation into internecine bands and fragile petty states that can be controlled and, indeed, subjugated. The Islamic caliphate was, in fact, done away with and this is a caliphate under the auspices of which many apexes of glory and splendor were reached and in the absence of which we experienced ignominy, decadence, apostasy and ruin.

[Question] We heard that at the beginning and end of the trial, you declared your rejection of the verdicts handed down in this case. What do you mean by that?

[Answer] "Praise be to God, at the first and at the last, for He is the command and to Him shall ye all be brought back" and "peace be unto him who brings warning and glad tidings and who guides to the straight path." The

Almighty said: "Thus have we revealed it to be a judgment of authority in Arabic. Wert thou to follow their main desire after the knowledge which hath reached thee, then wouldst thou find neither protector nor defender against God."

So in compliance with the call of justice and in submission to God's will, we declare our rejection of those pagan civil laws under which we were tried and which are observed in Islamic Egypt and the Islamic world. We had no choice but to take solace in God's words: "It is not befitting for a believer, man or woman, when a matter has been decided by God and his apostle, to have any option about their decision." Far be it that God has rivals to legislate laws by which to contest God's divinity and singularity in creation, power and legislation. The Almighty said in the way of censure, threats and disapproval of him who worshipped others and created laws contrary to the Islamic system: "What! Have they partners who have established for them some religion without permission of God? He also said: "But who doeth more wrong than one who invents a lie against God, to lead astray men without knowledge?" So may evil befall those who have appointed themselves rivals of God who created them. The Almighty said: "Hast thou not thy vision to those who have changed the favor of God into blasphemy and caused their people to descend to the house of perdition? In Hell they will burn therein, an evil place to stay in." De-luded is he who claims belief and turns to others than his Creator for worship, judgment, love, fear and humility. To discredit the false allegations of those who claim to be believers, the Almighty said: "Hast thou not turned thy vision to those who declare that they believe in the revelations that have come to thee and to those before thee? Their wish is to resort together for judgment (in their disputes) to the Evil One, though they were ordered to reject him. But Satan's wish is to lead them astray for away (from the right). When it is said to them: "Come to what God hath revealed, and to the apostle, thou seest the hypocrites avert their faces from them in disgust."

Therefore, we must renounce every law that disagrees with Islam and deviates from its path. We, as Muslims, cannot but accept and believe in the judgment of God whose only enemies are the renegade unbelievers. The Almighty said: "But no, by the Lord, they can have no (real) faith until they make thee judge in all disputes between them and find in their souls no resistance against thy decisions but accept them with the fullest conviction." The orthodox caliphs and the rulers of justice after them sacrificed their lives and possessions to exalt the word of God and a judicial system befitting the Prophet's Sunna. We, after them, are still and shall always strive to realize this high objective and lofty purpose until we achieve success or we meet our Lord unchanged and uncovered. It behooves all of us to suppress rampant evil and to reveal the suppressed truth. This is the mission that was entrusted to the caliphs as successors to prophethood to protect the religion and to manage the religion. The Almighty said: "They are those who, if we establish them in the land, establish regular prayers and provide regular charity, enjoin the right and forbid the wrong." How unjust and wretched are those laws providing for the execution or imprisonment of those who impart the call of their Lord and speak openly of the truth without fear of reproof. These unfair verdicts against those who have fought throughout the years for the sake of God are totally unacceptable to us. We know that the death sentence

against us is equivalent to acquittal in God's judgment, law and legislation. I declared our rejection of the verdicts in our case in a verdict-rejection statement during the sentencing session before the verdict was pronounced. My brothers and I persist in our rejection of any arbitration outside God's law, for wretched is he who fights those who say, "My God, the Lord," and to hell with these borrowed falsehoods left behind by the infidel colonizers. Verily, God has said: "If any fail to judge by what God hath revealed, they are (no better than) unbelievers." He also said: "Do they then seek after a judgment of (the days) of ignorance? But who, for a people whose faith is assured, can give better judgment than God?"

[Question] What do you think of the rulers and of the methods of dealing with them?

[Answer] The path of the Islamic movement today is guided by the light of the Prophet, of the leaders of Islam and of our worthy ancestors who classified the rulers into three categories and set the rules for dealing with each of them:

The first category is a Muslim ruler who rules by the Book of God and follows the example of the Prophet. The people must hear and obey him unless he professes disobedience. Everyone must do everything possible to help and give counsel to him, making every effort to become his soldiers and followers, his adherents and partisans, sparing no effort nor energy so that God may be obeyed on earth. Thus is the consensus of Muslim scholars everywhere. It was such rulers that God had in mind when he said: "O, ye who believe, obey God and obey the Apostle and those charged with authority among you."

The second category is a ruler who rules but is unjust and deviates from the path due to some desire or suspicion. Despite his depravity and injustice, he rules by the Book of God so the people must treat him and set him straight. His isolation and removal must be determined by whether the benefits of removal override the evils of his continuation. However, if his removal leads to a greater problem, he must not be disobeyed, in the opinion of a large group of scholars.

The third category is the unbelieving ruler who does not rule by the Book of God. There is a general consensus among the Muslim scholars that this type of ruler must be disobeyed and removed and, if only a certain sect can achieve this, it has the right to root him out, oppose him and carry weapons against him and appoint a successor to rule by the Book of God so that salvation may prevail. No infidel can rule a believer because the former is an oppressor closely associated with injustice and depravity, thus disobeying him is weighted against good and evil.

12502

CSO: 4504/264

MOROCCO

EFFECT OF SECURITY BERM IN WESTERN SAHARA EXAMINED

Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Mar 85 pp 1, 6

[Article by Françoise Chipaux]

[Text] King Hassan II kissed Saharan soil when he arrived in El Aaiun for the first time. The sovereign, who presided over Friday prayers in the capital of the former Spanish Sahara, later inspected his army along the Saharan security berm.

Meanwhile, meeting in El Aaiun on Thursday, the Moroccan Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution asking the United Nations to supervise the holding of a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara.

Mahbes--A quadrilateral of crenellated stone, with each of its corners surmounted by a white bell-shaped cupola, encloses a few deserted houses that have been abandoned to the sand, which now reaches their roofs. Set down in the middle of the desert, this former fort for the Spanish Nomad Guard has again changed hands. Evacuated by the Moroccan Army in 1979, Mahbes was taken over by POLISARIO, but POLISARIO in turn had to abandon it last 20 December in the face of the advance by the fourth Moroccan security berm.

Located 80 kilometers from Tindouf and 30 kilometers from the Algerian frontier, Mahbes is the forward command post for the new line of defense set up by the FAR (Royal Armed Forces), the main feature of which is that it seals off the Algerian-Moroccan frontier. Standing on a small hill a few hundred meters from the fort, which has only been in existence since 1970, are a few ruins testifying to the presence of a small civilian population back when there was no frontier to hamper the movement of camel drivers, the advance of whose caravans was determined only by the location of water points. Today, huge antennas bristle on the hills, and armored vehicles and trucks are parked in the sun or in the shade of the few gum trees.

In his prefabricated command post set up on the bed of a truck, Colonel Belcaid says flatly: "The region is 100-percent secure, and we intend to reestablish a life here. We are looking for water points where inhabitants can be settled."

Peace here? Maybe. But will anyone live here again? It is hard to believe that anyone will when all one sees is an ocean of dunes swept by winds of sand or baking under an unbearable sun. The graves of two Spanish Legion deserters, one of whom was found a few kilometers from the garrison after he had hanged himself in despair, while the other had died of thirst, are a reminder that the desert cannot be tamed.

All the same, Morocco and POLISARIO--or, as Moroccan circles prefer to say, "Morocco and Algeria acting through POLISARIO"--have been fighting over these few acres of parched sand for the past 10 years. Moroccan officers admit: "Among other reasons, we have built this berm to prove once and for all that POLISARIO has its sanctuaries in Algeria and only in Algeria." And in fact, the berm follows the frontier very closely, although it leaves a no-man's-land varying in width from 4 to 12 kilometers "to avoid any danger of confrontation" with the Algerian Army.

The fourth berm, which extends for 70 kilometers along the Moroccan-Mauritanian frontier before heading west, leaves only a 20,000-square-kilometer pocket in Saguia el-Hamra, including Tifariti, free. The pocket is sealed off by taking the berm right up to the frontier at Amgala. The berm therefore increases the distance to be covered by Saharan fighters, who must move farther and farther away from their base to reach their objectives, whereas the Moroccan Army, protected by the berm, can bring its rear bases right up to the front.

In this war in the sand, where logistics--water, fuel, and vehicles--are essential, that is a sizable advantage, all the more since the financial aspect is not something to be disregarded. "Making the adversary--in this case Algeria, which provides all logistic support--bear the cost of the war is one of the goals of the operation," says General Bennani, commanding officer of the southern front. He adds: "If Algeria stops providing fuel, the war will come to a stop by itself."

General Bennani is of average height, sports a thin gray moustache, and wears horn-rimmed glasses on his round face. Precise and sober in his statements, from which he excludes all triumphalism, he well reflects the new state of mind in the FAR. Protected by a 1,400-kilometer-long berm that stretches from the Algerian frontier to Boujdour on the Atlantic coast, the royal forces have gradually regained control of the field and have now settled down in conditions permitting them to wait for the "enemy" with a degree of serenity.

The entire berm, the approaches to which are mined, is monitored 24 hours a day, says one officer, by ground radars that can detect "anything that moves at a distance of between 5 and 60 kilometers." Where the terrain is unfavorable, watchtowers have been built. Strong points located at more or less regular intervals along the berm constitute the alarm bells that trigger the "almost immediate" arrival of intervention troops stationed behind the berm. Each of those units, consisting of an interarms group, defends from three to seven strong points, depending on the lie of the land. Of the 200,000 men in the Moroccan Army, 110,000 are currently deployed in the south, and from 25,000 to 30,000 of them are opposite the Algerian frontier.

By putting an end to POLISARIO's surprise attacks on isolated FAR garrisons, construction of the berm has caused a definite drop in the number of human losses--the FAR has suffered two or three deaths a month on average over the past 2 years--and transformed the bloody confrontations of previous years into long-range artillery battles that usually last a few hours.

Before each major offensive, whose start always coincides with a "historic date"--and "every common soldier in his foxhole knows them by heart," comments one officer with a smile--POLISARIO assembles its men and armor in small units, sometimes along a front several kilometers long. Colonel El Malti observes: "Paradoxically, while we have become more rapid and operational, they have weighed themselves down by using big armored troop transports and Soviet-made T-54 and T-55 tanks. It is a wonderful collection of scrap iron, but they use it in a rudimentary fashion by crashing headlong into our berm. Two-thirds of their men are mobilized for each major offensive, and it then takes them 2 or 3 months to recover before attacking again."

Moroccan officers note that in any case, POLISARIO's fighters, who are often very young, are not sparing in their use of ammunition and often use new equipment in each operation. Between those operations, also according to the Moroccans, they engage in harassment by firing two or three shells from a distance at Moroccan posts, and the "abnormal shot" (that is, a hit) is rare.

Enemy Is Boredom

One can understand why the officer stationed on the berm at Amgala says: "My biggest enemy is boredom." Perched on the cliff that drops abruptly into the valley of the Ouentergat Wadi, the berm located on the Mauritanian frontier has taken on a permanent character here.

The blockhouses for the soldiers and officers, built of brown and black stone, enclose belvederes on which machineguns have been installed. On the other side is Mauritania, and no army is visible in that direction. General Bennani says: "I would like to see the Mauriticians on the frontier." One of his adjutants chimes in: "They are full of good will, but what can they do?"

The coup d'etat in Mauritania, which brought Colonel Taya to power, was clearly welcomed in Rabat. Although cautious, Moroccan officials regard developments in Nouakchott as "positive." With a touch of irony, one of them says: "It was very good for us that they experienced the Algerian annexation. Now they will turn to us again, and we will help them, as we have never stopped doing."

For the moment, there is no berm to prevent POLISARIO from moving about in the former Rio de Oro. Only the city of Dakhla is protected. "But," General Bennani says, "we have aircraft and highly developed electronic resources with which to control the territories in the south." It is estimated generally that POLISARIO's presence in this area consists of 250 men with about 50 jeeps. All the same, they recently managed to shoot down two passenger planes that were passing over.

Does this apparent lack of interest in Rio de Oro mean that Morocco might show more flexibility in connection with that inhospitable territory? It is possible, although on the Festival of the Throne, the king reaffirmed "Morocco's sovereignty, one and indivisible, from Tangiers to Lagouera."

But one thing is certain: Saguia el-Hamra--the "useful Sahara"--has every appearance of being a permanent Moroccan territory. To be convinced of this, one need only see the work accomplished here and there in Smara, Haouza, and, of course, El Aaiun. The former capital of Spanish Sahara is hardly recognizable. From 25,000 inhabitants, it has grown to 100,000 today. Strolling side by side along the streets decked with the red and green colors of Morocco are Riffians from the north, merchants from Agadir or Fez, veterans of the Green March, and Saharans--some of whom are savoring with unfeigned pleasure the joys of the sedentary life.

A former minister explains: "Construction of the berms made the inhabitants feel secure. In addition, many young men who were just beginning their active lives when the Spanish left have taken advantage of the opportunities provided by the Moroccan will for development. Today they are governors, caids, and heads of government departments, and they defend their status as Moroccans much more than we do. Lastly, a great many of them have married northerners, and the result has been an intermixing of society." Security in El Aaiun seems assured, and no terrorist act has occurred there for several years. People travel freely in the province, and the camel herds are starting to go out again.

The Moroccan Government has spared no effort to win the inhabitants over. Investments in the Sahara are seven times the national average, and the inhabitants are exempt from taxes. On that subject, Prime Minister Lamrani says: "The war is included in our budget," thus making it clear that the problem in question is now in the realm of everyday matters. From that standpoint, the Oujda agreement provided relief for Morocco, which benefits from Libyan manna, and penalized Algeria, which is practically alone now in bearing the burden of the war.

By making his first visit to preside over the main Friday prayers in El Aaiun's brandnew mosque 10 years after the Green March, King Hassan II has carried out a symbolic act of sovereignty. He is also paying tribute to the successes of a now-pampered army of which--and his officers repeat it frequently--he is the supreme head.

11798

CSO: 4519/122

MOROCCO

ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH JAPAN REPORTED

Casablanca LE MESSAGE ECONOMIQUE in French 5 Mar 85 pp 56, 57

[Article by Azzouz Tnifass: "Can Do Better"]

[Text] The twelfth supplier and tenth client--these are Japan's references for our economy. They do not amount to much, because considering the political desires expressed on both sides, we can hope for more. But before noting the factors which constitute an obstacle to consistent development, here is the diagnosis of the current situation.

TRADE EXCHANGES BETWEEN MOROCCO AND JAPAN

(end of September 1984)

(in thousands of dirhams)

Headings/Periods	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Imports	220,653	411,228	617,367	429,930	772,865
Exports	141,059	350,406	363,947	493,793	479,252
Balance	-79,594	-60,822	-253,420	+63,863	-293,613
Cover rate	63.9%	85.2%	59.0%	114.9%	62.0%

Source: Foreign Exchange Office

Thus, with the exception of 1983, trade exchanges between Morocco and Japan have always been characterized by large increases in our imports. The development of our exports remains irregular and is closely tied to our sales of phosphates (see table 2).

Side by side with purely commercial exchanges, there is economic and technical cooperation between Morocco and Japan. Two graduated loans for 376 million dirhams and 400 million dirhams were granted to Morocco for the purchase of 42 Japanese locomotives for the improvement of the means for transporting phosphate, and

for the construction of sulfuric acid producing plants. Nonreimbursable aid was also allocated for the delivery to the Ministry of Sea Fishing and the Merchant Marine of a 240 ton training ship valued at 16.6 million dirhams, 1 million dirhams worth of equipment and materials for teaching natural sciences as part of teacher training, and approximately 1 million dirhams worth of electronic audiovisual equipment for use in colleges. In the context of food aid, Japan bought from Morocco 4200 tons of rice valued at more than 14 million dirhams.

Japan also contributes technical and scientific assistance; the figures are given in the following summary (table 3).

But whereas the exchanges between the two countries are relatively rich, there are big, highly noticeable gaps when it comes to Japanese businesses. Curious about it, we asked the authorities at the Japanese embassy what the reasons were for the absence of Japanese firms in Morocco. According to them, the situation cannot be explained by a single decisive fact but by the sum of a number of small factors.

The first is of an historical nature, and relates to some failures in cooperation between Japanese and Moroccan entrepreneurs which made the former a bit sceptical. The fishing sector was considered an area that would be very favorable to joint undertakings (because of the wealth of our seas, and Japanese experience in this area). Two businesses were created to exploit this opportunity. But after a few very productive ventures, the Moroccan partners proved rather uncooperative when it came to improving the existing materiel, i.e., reinvesting. The Moroccan entrepreneur sometimes reacts like a shopkeeper. The end of these two undertakings was in the order of things, as was that of another in metallurgy.

The quality of labor, problems with qualifications, and above all with enthusiasm--but who can equal the Japanese in this area?--are also aspects which discourage the Japanese from establishing themselves in Morocco. A further area of inadequacy is that Morocco does not possess a sufficiently developed industrial fabric to be able to accommodate simply any productive activity (subcontracting and various supplies).

For its part, certainly, Morocco has created a very favorable situation this year by modifying its investment code, but it remains to be sold to Japanese entrepreneurs and businessmen. The more so because the latter are preoccupied at the moment with their new strategy, which consists in deflecting the budding protectionism of the Americans and Europeans by the creation of joint production plants within these protected countries.

But we must not be so defeatist, for projects do exist, and before seeing how the future turns out, we should note that one business has "pulled it off" in Morocco. The Hitachi firm, as a matter of fact, has been operating in Morocco for some time, assembling color television sets. Two large projects are being studied, the first dealing with the fishing sector (still!) in which, moreover, an agreement will soon be signed for tuna fishing; the second concerns the industrial sector, involving the establishment of an automobile parts production plant.

By participating in the Tsukuba exhibition, Morocco is trying to attract industrialists from the empire of the rising sun. Smiling tourists with slit eyes have already appeared in our historic cities (6,000) this year, and let us hope that they will be more numerous in the following years.

[Table in box]

Technical Cooperation With Morocco

<u>Item</u>	<u>Up to 1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
a) Acceptance of Moroccan trainees in various domains (persons)	26	7	15	15	15
b) Long and short term assignments of Japanese experts (persons)	22	12	3	0	7
c) Assignment of Japanese Overseas Volunteers for 2 years (persons)	150	7	14	14	23
d) Field trips for project feasibility studies (number of projects)	6	1	0	2	2
e) Other trips (persons)	87	11	3	5	3
f) Provision of equipment (millions of yen)	152	58	38	29	30
Total (millions of yen)	1,598	327	211	243	

9824

CSO: 4519/117

IRAQ

MINISTER OF LIGHT INDUSTRY TALKS ABOUT DEVELOPMENT PLANS

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 19 Jan 85 pp 21-22

[Interview with Tariq Hamd al-'Abdallah, minister of light industry, by As'ad al-'Aqli; date and place not given]

[Text] The Ministry of Light Industry in Iraq has attracted the attention of specialists since its creation over 2 years ago. This attention is due to the fact that the ministry is responsible for industrial firms directly connected with the citizens' current consumption of food and clothing, on the one hand, and supervises both the mixed and private industrial sectors and provides the necessary loans to these sectors, on the other.

The ministry has achieved many accomplishments in the pursuit of its activities in various fields. However, an evaluation of the progress made over the past 2 years necessitates unhurried scrutiny, which will contribute in turn to the efforts expended. This is especially true since the ministry affects to a greater or lesser extent many of the sectors of Iraq's economy in the confrontation phase of the war that Iraq has waged for over 4 years.

On this basis, our interview with Minister of Light Industry Tariq Hamd al-'Abdallah was an interview that was informative in a number of respects. In certain instances, the interview goes into detailed aspects that are vital and necessary in order to provide a complete understanding of the current activities and future horizons of the ministry. AL-TADAMUN began the interview as follows:

[Question] Some time has passed since the second anniversary of the creation of the Ministry of Light Industry in Iraq. This occurrence, combined with the circumstances of the war, objectively expresses the extent to which developmental activities are continuing. What are the main industrial sectors for which this ministry is responsible? What about its structural organization? And what would you single out as its most important accomplishments over the past 2 years?

[Answer] To begin with, before talking about the structure of the Ministry of Light Industry, we must examine the justifications behind the creation of this ministry. Under the conditions of war imposed on our country, the decision to form the ministry was one of the first centralized decisions made by the RCC to apply the new economic policy defined by the central decision of the Ninth National Conference of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. This decision provided a precise identification of the objective necessities required to intensify the process of socialist construction and the development of all its facilities. Therefore, after working continuously in this sector, I consider the decision to establish the Ministry of Light Industry one of the most important essential trademarks in the ongoing process of building the scientific industrial base, deepening its vertical links, and expanding its technical horizons.

Our ministry consists of the industrial firms that produce the basic necessities of the citizens, including food, clothing, and housing and construction requirements. It is also linked to the private industrial sector.

The Ministry of Light Industry consists of 32 socialist sector firms which oversee 152 socialist sector plants, and 13 mixed sector companies which oversee 35 plants. The ministry was formed while our combat with the Iranian enemy was in progress. One of the enemy's aims was to achieve its dreams of stopping the process of comprehensive economic and social development. These circumstances made it necessary that we concentrate on basic aspects of the process of development and industrial progress in order to complete the projects that had been started before the war and bring them into full production as quickly as possible. The war conditions dictated that we focus on the promotion and development of the productive capacities of the industrial projects and the improvement of their productive and economic performance in support of the war effort, as well as achieving optimum investment commensurate with the manpower in our industrial projects in order to compensate for the developing labor shortage. We also sought to improve and develop the varieties of industrial products produced by the projects in order to ensure greater consumer confidence and meet the consumer's national production needs.

These goals formed the basic core of the work of our ministry, and they are all linked to the needs of the time. The ministry sought to translate them into a palpable reality.

With regard to the first task, we concentrated our efforts on accomplishing and implementing projects on which work had begun before the war and considerable progress had been made. We completed and started up three of the largest cement projects in the country, each plant having a capacity of 2 million tons. We also expanded the Badush plant by 1 million tons per year. The next few months will see the startup of the

Taslujah and Karbala' cement projects in succession with an annual capacity of 4 million tons. I can say here without any exaggeration that the cement manufacturing technology that has been introduced in the country is the most up-to-date technology known in the world. Moreover, the expertise of the Iraqi cadre in this industry qualifies it to provide technical consulting either through Arab and international organizations or through bilateral agreements. In addition, we have started up a number of clay brick projects, the most recent being the al-Suwayrah brick plant with an annual capacity of 120 million bricks. At the same time, we have also begun moving to introduce industry to provide substitutes (brick substitutes). We are working to expand and develop this industry in the future to put a halt to the destruction of agricultural land and the consumption of its soil for the manufacture of bricks.

Within the textile industries sector, we have completed and started up a plant for ready-made children's clothing in al-Mawsil. This project is designed to produce 1,230,000 pieces of various children's garments. We have also completed and started up a Kurdish cloth factory in Dahuk and a factory to produce ready-made women's clothing in al-Sulaymaniyah. In addition, the textiles sector has seen the addition of a number of production lines to eliminate bottlenecks in existing projects. Finally, a men's clothing factory will be put into operation in al-Najaf in 1985.

[Question] What about the food sector?

[Answer] Within the food sector we have completed and started up plants to make carbonated beverages in al-Za'franiyah, mineral water and carbonated beverages in Bani Khaylan, and starch and dextrin in al-Hashimiyah. We have also completed production lines for canned vegetables in the Karbala' plants, dairy products plants in al-Miqdadiyah, Tikrit, and al-Qadisiyah along with their associated milk collection centers, and two continuous lines for the production of soap and glycerin at the al-Rashid and al-Amin plants in the General Installation for Vegetable Oils. We implemented production lines for good quality shaving cream and toothpaste (cosmetic preparations) to take the place of imported products. Other accomplishments include the development of a cleanser production department in al-Rashid, the Rothman cigarette production line, the Baghdad cigarette plant, the Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah cigarette plants, and the plant for the production of liquid sugar from dates in al-Hindiyyah.

Minister Tariq Hamd al-'Abdallah continued:

The mixed sector companies also experienced major developments. The National Company for Chemical and Plastics Industries implemented a plant for the production of PVC plastic pellets with a capacity of 32,000 tons, a plant for the covering of sponge cushions with an annual capacity of 500,000 cushions, a plant to recover polystyrene material with an annual 300 ton capacity, a plant to reclaim sponge materials with

an annual capacity of 400 tons, an expansion project at a plant for the production of plastic sheets, laminates, and cups, and an expansion project at the injection plant to increase the annual production capacity by 1,000 tons through the addition of 6 lines to the current plant. The Light Industries Company completed and started up new automatic lines at the new refrigerator plant to produce frames and doors, as well as a new plant for freezers. This company also developed a plant for heating stoves and kitchen ranges and increased its production capacity. The National Company for Food Industries started up a Seven-Up production line and a carbon dioxide gas plant.

[Question] You consider the sectors for which your ministry is responsible to be of far-reaching importance to the Iraqi citizen. What about the directions of development of these sectors, and what are the most important results achieved by the sectors?

[Answer] As I said at the beginning of the interview, priorities have been set for our sector, and these priorities include continued effort to improve and develop the quality of our industrial products in order to further quality of production. To mention a few examples:

--Concentration on improving the quality of the majority of products of the General Installation for Vegetable Oils, including oils, soaps, and toothpastes, and to offer new products under well known international brands.

--Improvement of the products of a number of installations of the General Organization for Textile Industries, notably the General Installation for Leather Industries (men's and women's shoes).

--Studies of the quality of the construction industries within the mixed sector companies, and the improvement of the quality of the Iraqi "Ashtar" freezer and the solution of problems raised with regard to its structural quality. In addition, there has been a reexamination of kitchen stoves, air conditioners, and telephone and television equipment in order to ensure that the citizen's confidence in these products will be strengthened. Currently, the ministry is concentrating on the food industries, and there is a group of measures now being pursued with the aim of improving the quality of the products of these industries.

Mr Tariq Hamd al-'Abdallah concluded with the following statement:

Despite the conditions of war imposed upon our country, we are happy with the fact that the cycle of production has continued and in fact has progressed. The statistics are sufficient to prove this fact. The organizations and installations of the ministry, including the companies of the mixed sector, achieved a total production in 1984 valued at approximately 865 million dinars versus 770 million dinars in 1982. This represents an improvement of 12 percent. In addition, total profits for 1983 amounted to 80 million dinars as opposed to 17.5 million dinars in 1982.

8591

CSO: 4404/200

ISRAEL

URI LUBRANI DISCUSSES LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAN

Tel Aviv BAMAHAANE in Hebrew 26 Feb 85 pp 8-9, 18

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon; in Tel Aviv, date not specified]

[Text] "It is almost certain that in the long run Lebanon will become an Islamic Shi'ite republic and we had better gear for it from many aspects," says Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon in a special interview with BAMAHAANE's reporter, held in his Tel Aviv office.

In the course of the interview, the reporter asked Lubrani to examine the implications of the Islamic revolution in Iran on the Arab world as whole, and on what happens close to Israel's border, particularly in Lebanon.

Lubrani is indeed an expert on the subject. Prior to being coordinator for Israeli activities in Lebanon he served as Israel's ambassador to Iran. This was the highlight of a long diplomatic career which started in 1964, in the course of which he served as ambassador in several African countries. At one time Lubrani headed the prime minister's office and was adviser on Arab affairs to David Ben Gurion, personal secretary to Moshe Sharet and also headed the prime minister's office under Levi Eshkol.

[Question] Is the Iranian revolution a real one with a real message to the Iranian people and the Muslim world, and if so, what is the message?

[Answer] There is no doubt that this is a revolution of far reaching historical significance in the 20th century. I am not familiar with many such revolutions, certainly not in our century. From the point of view of its far reaching influence on the Iranian people, it can be compared with the Bolshevik revolution in Russia. The Tehran revolution has, of course, its own flavor, inasmuch as it also embodies a religious fundamentalist aspect with a very deep inner force. The religious motivation joined with the social one to bring about a political revolution. Obviously, the repercussions of the revolution have transcended the Iranian borders and have reached us, too, and not in the most sympathetic way. There is no doubt that the message of this revolution to Shi'ites outside Iran is of an explosive nature, a message intended to sow the seeds of motivation for a holy war on religious issues.

[Question] Is the message to Shi'ites only or to the Muslim world as a whole?

[Answer] I think that there is an attempt to address all of Islam, but clearly and primarily, it is directed to Shi'ites.

[Question] Can one say now, 5 years after the revolution, that the Iranian regime can look back with satisfaction and say that they accomplished what they set out to?

[Answer] They did accomplish their national goals. I think that what happened in Iran is that the regime headed by the Ayatollah Khomeyni has taken root and created norms which will be hard to change by any subsequent regime. As to what is happening beyond Iran's borders, it is obviously not as deep, not as far reaching, but certainly strong enough to be an inciting factor among Lebanese Shi'ites, especially in the more religious extremist center in Ba'labakk in al-Biqa' Valley.

[Question] We will return to the subject of Lebanon. In the meantime, has the idea of exporting a revolution to other Arab countries succeeded? Have the Arab countries not gotten the message and have they not taken steps to stem this development?

[Answer] There is no question but that the Iranian revolution has created fears among many Middle Eastern countries. It caused considerable tremors in the region and the acceleration of the fundamentalist concept, even among Sunnis. To cite but one example, which again has direct implications for us, I think that the fundamentalist movement in Egypt is not a passing phenomenon. It found a fertile soil within the Egyptian people. Sadat was murdered by a group which clearly was affected by religious fanaticism. True, all this is fed by what is emanating from the Iranian revolution, although Sunnis are not Shi'ites, and Egypt is not Iran. In my opinion -- and this is strictly my own -- if anyone claims that there is a trend toward extremism in Egypt, a strengthening of the fanatic religious element, which is certainly not favorable to us, it is undoubtedly no idle talk.

[Question] You do not detect elements of moderation among the Iranian leadership in the last year or two, especially when it comes to foreign affairs and the war with Iraq?

[Answer] As the Iranian revolution continues to exist, it undergoes stages and processes and undoubtedly it also is becoming somewhat more moderate. I have no doubt that there is a certain change toward moderation as part of the dynamics of the revolution, because on the whole they have achieved their goal. What gave them a very vital message is the war with Iraq. It created a situation where the Iranian revolutionary movement turned overnight into a popular national movement. This in itself is a sign of moderation, because the whole nation is not running around in the streets shouting Khomeyni slogans, but that nation did go out to the streets with pro-Iranian slogans, in support of the integrity of Iranian territory.

[Question] But this moderation may have other reasons, such as economic difficulties.

[Answer] There are other reasons. How long can one run around in the streets and yell? People got tired, they attained their goal. It is difficult for them to live in isolation and they also look for avenues acceptable to the international community. There is a definite trend in Iran to look for footholds in Western Europe. I get this sense from what I read about what is going on within Iran, from meetings with people who talk to Iranians and from some openness that they are showing now, which they did not in the past, pertaining to commerce and other ties.

[Question] But what happens when Khomeyni is out of the picture?

[Answer] That will certainly bring about a change. A change in style, atmosphere and intensity. It is not as if all of a sudden there will be something altogether new. One must not forget: Iran without a leader is not Iran. In other words, I consider Khomeyni to be a shah, a shah with his own style. Iran without a shah is not Iran. There cannot be a collective leadership in Iran. There has to be one strong man. This is a fact that has to be recognized. It can be Montazari, Rafsanjan, or someone else. If the heir is too weak, he will be replaced by someone else.

[Question] As one who was involved with Iran for many years, were you surprised by the intensity of the revolution and with how the Iranian people reacted?

[Answer] I was somewhat surprised by the intensity. It is a phenomenon that everyone who lived it was surprised by. I did not, in my wildest dreams, imagine anything like this happening in Iran. I knew that Iran was on the eve of a political upheaval. I sensed it. I think that anyone who lived in Iran in those years felt that the social structure there was very fragile and everything was about to explode. We did not think, however, that it was going to happen with that much intensity. Although, I should point out, we were less surprised than the Americans, perhaps because we have a better sense for the region in which we live.

[Question] Does not the Iranian presence in Lebanon cause a conflict of interest between Iran and Syria?

[Answer] No, I do not think there is an intrinsic misunderstanding. There is Syrian sensitivity to, I would even say Syrian fear of, activities of Iranian revolutionary elements in the region for which Syria is responsible. When the Iranian president visited Syria, he was brought to al-Biqa' in order to help calm down the "activists" and make it clear to them that they cause too much clamor, which is not to the liking of the Iranian establishment. I do think that on the inter Arab level, the Iranians and the Syrians have a common interest and that Syria also represents the extreme elements in the rainbow of Arab opinions. Not only that, they would like to maintain this posture of leadership and the Iranians are natural allies for this ambition. Libya and South Yemen are also in this group. These are the extremist countries and they have identical interests. This is also the reason that when 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam tours Arab countries, he stops in Tehran. We know he went there. It shows that there is some affinity between Iran and Syria. The Iranian-Iraqi dispute and the Syrian-Iraqi hostility also come

into play. This is a very meaningful common denominator. In other words, I think that today there is no real conflict between Syria and Iran. There are frictions, doubts, but certainly no conflicts.

[Question] In the long run, don't you see a possibility that extremist Shi'ites will become a dominant factor in Lebanon? Is this not dangerous, from the Syrian point of view?

[Answer] I do not think that the Syrians are entirely happy with the dominant position of the Shi'ites in Lebanon today. This group is acquiring this dominance, and believes it deserves it, by virtue of its demographic preponderance in Lebanese society. The Syrians are not too happy with this. But there is nothing they can do about it. They will have to reconcile themselves to it and this is the reason why Syria is developing a structure which will be able to handle its own Shi'ites. Nabih Birri gets his support, among others, from Damascus, too. The Syrians want to have influence on other Shi'ite organizations, not just Amal. I sense that when Birri exhibits too much independence and too much maneuverability within the organization, someone is instructed to undermine him somewhat, so he does not feel quite as strong. There is some sort of a mechanism within the Shi'ite community which enables the Syrians to control things. They do not want things to happen over which they have no control. This is my feeling. I have no doubt that in the long run developments will cause Lebanon to become the Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese republic. This is not an encouraging prospect, maybe not what we would all like to see, but I think we had better recognize it. The Christians will remain there, so will the Druze, everyone will remain, but the dominant group will be the Shi'ites, the others' power will diminish. We have to see things as they are, these are our neighbors and we have to be geared accordingly. I am talking of gearing in many ways, positive, too. This process may take 5 years, maybe 10, and with outside acceleration even less. On the other hand, if someone manages to slow the process down, it may take longer.

[Question] This development is certain to be bad for the Syrians, let alone for Israel.

[Answer] Perhaps, but one should not lose the sense of proportion. At stake is small, weak Lebanon, which is likely to remain weak and never to be a military factor to be reckoned with seriously. We recognize this and that is why it should not be viewed in the context of danger.

[Question] But it will be a Lebanon nurtured on the Iranian revolution.

[Answer] True, but at the same time, one should not forget another process taking place. The Iranian revolution is becoming moderate. i.e., things are not unequivocal.

[Question] Let us return to a more pressing matter. Did the al-Naqurah talks really reach a dead end?

[Answer] I think the process is about to come to a halt. I think the optimists among us are willing to admit that, at this point, they have reached a dead end. There will possibly be a second round. After we reach a point from which we have no choice but to arrive at unilateral decisions, it may be that those in Lebanon and Syria, who believe that they are better off with some agreement with us, will wake up to say: "Hold it, if this indeed is the situation, let us see if we can agree on something." It is a possibility. Another possibility is that they do not recognize it, and we will make our own unilateral moves, which, according to the majority, is our best option.

[Question] Do you mean realigning the IDF?

[Answer] Yes, there are all kinds of options. The prime minister says he is for withdrawing to the international border. He stated his opinion. This is not necessarily an operational plan, but we all are of the opinion that we should withdraw to the international border. Everyone has his own opinion as to the method, the timing, etc.

[Question] Why did we reach a dead end with the talks? Are the Syrians or the Iranians behind it?

[Answer] I do not think that the Iranians are. I do think it is Syrian unwillingness to arrive at any understanding. Had they been willing to, they would certainly have given the signal to the Lebanese. I think that what happened is that there are both Syrians and Lebanese who believe that it is our intention to leave anyway, so why pay us a price -- we are leaving as is. I think that these are elements, both within Syria and Lebanon, who do not care what happens following our departure. This is why they give up on an arrangement so easily. Actually, Israel, from her point of view, has the advantage, since it has no commitment whatsoever within the lines where it stays; i.e., Israel will consider itself free to act in any way she sees fit within the lines where she has responsibility. This is quite convenient. It is a situation which will certainly not satisfy anyone who tries to work against us. Unfortunately, there is no question but that innocent people may get hurt, because reactions will not be remedial; they will be more massive. We will be forced to react resolutely and with force to any out-of-the-way phenomenon. It may very well be that we will have to reconcile ourselves to this reality because this may be what the Lebanese want. We may have no choice.

[Question] You said that some elements within Syria or Lebanon maintain that Israel is under pressure as is and sooner or later will have to withdraw, so why reconcile? Who are these elements? In Syria we know that al-Asad is the decision maker.

[Answer] It may be that al-Asad thinks so. It may be that Karamah, who is the decisive factor in Lebanon today, wants it this way, and he really does not care if thousands of southern Lebanese get killed. It does not concern him in the least. We proposed our plans, which are based for the most part on the premise of saving human life, in Israel and in Lebanon. Let there be

no mistake. Apparently Lebanon has no such considerations. We have encountered a situation with two opposing sets of priorities, which do not meet and are not easily reconcilable.

[Question] Did the Lebanese and the Syrians go to the al-Naqurah talks with the intention of not arriving at an agreement but bringing about a situation where Israel is weakened politically and has to give in?

[Answer] No, I do not think so. I think that each player in this political process thought that he could accomplish his own goals in a manner satisfactory to him. The fact that Israel is not willing to accept a Lebanese or Syrian plan for its security is another matter altogether. Each side sought to maximize its achievements in the al-Naqurah framework. We wanted the security arrangements to allow us to pull the IDF back to within the international border. I think that from our point of view, had we been able to attain this, it would have been the ideal arrangement for us. For the time being we have not been able to accomplish just that. The Lebanese had their own goals by getting the IDF to withdraw at the lowest price for themselves. The same goes for the Syrians.

[Question] What are the chances for an understanding with the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon?

[Answer] We have, unfortunately, in my opinion, little to discuss with the Shi'ite community. It may be that we are at fault that we did not do all that we could and should have done in this case. No one is sure that we did all that could have been done in order to come to an understanding. Anyone who claims that we did, and in good faith, is doing injustice to the truth. We did not do what we should have done, not because we did not want to do it, but probably because we did not know what exactly had to be done. I do not even know whether there was anything we could have done. Having said this I do not want to say that everything that could have been done was done. Never. I am not one of those who think that everything they do is the best, the wisest and the most efficient. No.

Having said that, one might add that at a certain point, according to our way, we left no stone unturned, in an effort to effect a dialogue. One major reason we did not succeed in attaining what we set out to, stems from what is going on within the Shi'ite sect and the Amal movement, which today is the most viable political movement within the Shi'ite community. It is as yet a non-crystallized movement and internal strife for control is still going on in full force, regardless of Israel. It is a movement whose real initial leadership was cut off while the movement was still at its inception, when Musa al-Sadr disappeared. From that point on, there has been an internal struggle both of personalities and of ideologies. With all that, a dialogue with Israel is a disruptive factor, because usually, when such a struggle is going on, it creates extremism. What happens is a competition on extremism. Nabih Birri does not compete with his opponents within the sect by being a moderate or by becoming one. To our chagrin he competes by extremism. Mere dialogue with Israel is a weapon for opponents to attack others. Since the very well founded assumption within the Shi'ite system is that it is impossible

to keep a secret, Nabih Birri knows that any dialogue with us, direct or otherwise, may be a weapon in his opponents' hands. This is why he wants no dialogue with us, and he is quite frank about it.

Perhaps, deep in his heart, and this is true not only for Nabih Birri but for any other leadership, he may want to talk to us, because of his community's interests in the south. But because of this competition, because of this feeling that everything is leaked, we now face a situation where the dominant Shi'ite leadership does not want to talk to us. Again, this does not mean to say that they really do not want to talk.

[Question] Is this the background against which one may be able to explain away recent assassinations of moderate Shi'ite leaders?

[Answer] This background, too. There is something else that needs to be known. There is one very significant factor. It is insecurity as to the future, the inability to foresee the future. People who want coexistence are vulnerable. I hope that this haziness clears up.

[Question] There is a rather simple theme emanating from what you have said about Lebanon.

[Answer] If this is what I seem to have implied, it is not exactly what I wanted to say. I think that at this stage there is no doubt but that pessimism is in order. At this point we cannot have a dialogue with a significant element of the Shi'ite community. I do believe, though, that when the dust settles down, and we know where we are headed, we will be able to have a dialogue with neighbors. Relations do not have to be founded on love and embraces but definitely on a desire to coexist. I am convinced, and I know it from experience, that there is a silent majority in southern Lebanon which wants to coexist. This majority never gets a chance and it has neither the weapons nor the motivation to run around in the streets and yell. We have to find a way to this majority and I believe we will be able to do so.

8646

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1 May 1985

ISRAEL

IDF UNIT OF GIFTED SOLDIERS FOR R&D PROJECTS CREATED

Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 30 Jan 85 pp 10-11, 50-51

[Text] "I was born in the Bermuda Islands to parents both of whose IQ's were in the genius range, over 160. Right after I was born, I fell from the young physician's hands and bumped my head. In my opinion, this traumatic event, and the locale of my birth, the Bermuda Triangle -- which is in a trigonometric center where electromagnetic forces are active -- have created in my brain a very special intellectual combination."

The young man, in Air Force uniform, sits with this reporter and talks enthusiastically: "All factors I mentioned have given me a superior capacity for analytic and deductive thinking from binary and other assumptions. I served as private adviser to the chief of intelligence in all that pertains to the development of compact intelligence systems. My mother was manager at ISG, a leading firm in software development and artificial intelligence. When I was 10 I graduated from elementary school and was accepted to a high school for gifted students in "Beverly Hills." I received my bachelors degree from Oxford before I enlisted in the IDF...Tell me, does this tell you anything about the expectations from a cadet at Talpiyot?..."

Then he turns to this reporter with a surprise: "Now you can erase it all, trash it and hear the truth, the boring biography of everyone at Talpiyot. I graduated from high school in Holon. Normal kindergarten, elementary and high school. As a youngster I had neither too few nor too many toys. I grew up in a typical Israeli home. Before I was drafted I debated with myself where I wanted to serve. I thought of joining the Academic Unit [study, then serve] but in the end I found myself here, on this project.

The Talpiyot project, which up to several years ago was secret, has recently become very well known. Jerusalem youngsters under draft age have long ceased to search for the secret installation, supposedly among the basements of the Talpiyot neighborhood, where the gifted were said to be housed.

The project, whose goal it is to train young soldiers to develop new weapons for the defense system, has been under way for several years. To date, several classes have graduated from the university and have joined the various development centers of the IDF. There is something new in this last class: The gifted soldiers include women, too, cadets like all the others. Details

on the activities of the graduates will remain secret for many more years to come. It is almost certain, though, that the best of them will be heard from, when they are presented with one of the defense awards.

Major Hanokh, present commander of the project, explains in simpler terms what the cadet of "Beverly Hills" in Holon was trying to say: "When we make the selection for the project, we do not necessarily seek out the geniuses, those with the highest IQ, who receive their bachelor's degree before their friends begin to study for their high school finals. These are usually different. Sometimes they are not easy to get along with socially and they may find it difficult to work on development teams for which our cadets are trained. The geniuses are directed to the Academic Core, to continue with their studies and make some other contribution to the IDF.

Development Channels

"We look for other types. True, with very high IQ's, but this is not the determining factor. All candidates undergo rigorous tests where their thinking ability is evaluated, their scientific aptitude, their capacity to locate problem areas and offer quick solutions. In addition, their aptitude for logic is also tested, as are their analytic ability, and their technical aptitude and knowledge.

"Candidates who pass all the tests I mentioned also have to demonstrate social qualities and openness in order to be able to work in teams. Many of our cadets like social activities, have hobbies, a sense of humor and some even excel in sports. In order to delineate their character, the candidates undergo sociometric tests and officer candidate tests, since all cadets have to graduate from officers' school, as well," explains Major Hanokh.

Lt Colonel Arye, commander of the facility where Talpiyot is the main project, completes the picture of the acceptance process: "We locate the candidates through recommendations from their schools and test scores at the recruiting centers. We accept only 3 percent. What is typical for the project is that the candidates have only one opportunity. There is no second date, no second chance.

One candidate, who did not need a second chance, is Oren, who is graduating from Talpiyot this year, and is on his way to join one of the defense system projects. Oren, 20, was born to parents with an academic education. He graduated from the Bet-Hayeled elementary school like everyone else, without any shortcuts. He was one of the guys, although his friends always knew that he excelled in mathematics. He did well in English, too, and was one of the best in his English speaking group. He continued in this manner in the high school affiliated with the University and did best in sciences.

Oren loves sports. In elementary school he played soccer for hours, and later basketball, too. In high school he was on the volley ball team and participated in other athletic endeavors. For a long time he was among the best runners in his class.

"Oren is a quiet youth, honest and thinking. He has never acted hastily in a way that may fail him. He always followed the rules, almost abnormal in this day and age," according to his friends.

Oren was the first in officers' school with two difficult college years already behind him. Today he is in the last semester of the project. Next month he will have to start thinking about which development direction he would like to follow and what development project he would like to undertake. Oren is still not sure what area he would like to specialize in. Most likely he will choose aviation.

Oren does not talk much of his university studies. He prefers to talk of the military training he underwent with his friends. "The beginning of the military training in Talpiyot, the longest project in the IDF, is spent in the usual boot camp, with the Parachuting Core. The aim of the difficult boot camp is to harden us, to examine our will power, to teach us to withstand difficulties and to strive for achievement. Following boot camp we started studying and we entered a period of enormous pressure. Every academic break is spent in military training and other courses. In these we study battle theories and development aspects for every force. To date we passed a parachuting course, which was the highlight of boot camp. We completed training in the armored division, tank force, engineering, ordnance, communications, navy, air force, intelligence and others. This past year we went to officers' school."

Interesting Combination

"Only now, with most of the training behind me, can I understand the significance of an overall view of the IDF. It will still be difficult to translate it all to my real contribution in the future. Today I can talk to any soldier or commander, in all forces and units, in the technical terms with which they are familiar. Be it calculating the Merkava tank data, entering data to aim a cannon at a target, understanding an infantry exercise or the training of a missile unit, I can recognize the problems that pilots or intelligence personnel face as part of their varied duties. There is no doubt that the integration of the military system in the course of our studies is very interesting and valuable. There is no job in the IDF, with the possible exception of military reporting, which affords a better opportunity to spend as much time with the different forces and get to know the IDF and all its units."

The idea of training gifted soldiers for the development of warfare systems was first proposed following the Yom Kipur War by two professors of the Hebrew University. The idea they had was to achieve better utilization of these gifted soldiers, so that they can contribute their talents to the defense system. The military establishment and senior officers were cool to the idea. It was difficult to get them to change their minds. The two professors encountered closed doors wherever they turned. The policy was changed during the tenure of former Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan. Rafal saw to it that there were education programs for the lowest 10 percent. He also paid attention to the top 10 percent. He was very excited by the idea and gave it the green light. The Air Force took it on and the all IDF program started with a few dozen youths.

This year, following many debates, some women have also been accepted. Lt Colonel Arye maintains that the acceptance criteria do not differentiate between men and women. "All women who were accepted were tested just like the men. There is no reason for a talented woman not to do well in academics. It would be wasteful if a woman who can study in Talpiyot and contribute her talents is made into a secretary in some IDF base. On this project these women realize their potential much better. In this program the women have no special privileges. They undergo all military training just like the men, and may take the parachuting course, if they so choose. In order to attain total equality, they were required to sign up for one extra year of regular service in addition to the 5 year service with full pay. Thus they serve a full 3 years in regular service, just like the men. The only exceptions are boot camp and officers' school, where women are trained separately."

Difficult Adjustment

Li'at, 18, is one of eight women in this class. She enlisted in July, after graduating from Ort in Netanya. Following boot camp she rushed to Jerusalem for the beginning of the academic year.

"I wanted to serve in Talpiyot because I love mathematics and physics best of all and this is an opportunity to do it seriously. I preferred Talpiyot to the Academic Core because of the integration with military training. It is more interesting. We receive that much more and it is, after all, a challenge." Adds Li'at: "It was difficult at first to adjust to the pressure of studying and dormitory life. Academic studies are not easy and require a lot of work. Yet, it is possible to find time to relax and unwind from studying. The people are nice. Once upon a time I was first in my class, now I have to compete with other such firsts, some of whom have pre-training in some of the subjects, which makes it even more difficult."

Li'at prefers to "be with the lions" rather than "lead the foxes," but refuses to rank herself. "It is too early, but obviously, there are some who are better than me." Li'at is modest and does not believe she is better than everyone else. "I am quite normal, but with certain scientific talents."

She prefers not to elaborate on military discipline. "For the most part we study in classes, in a civilian institution, with civilian professors and instructors. During breaks we meet with students on the campus, we eat together and live in a university dormitory.

"In order to remind us that we are soldiers, we have roll call once a week and we have to clean showers, bathrooms, rooms, etc. There is also a nice master sergeant who is meticulous about proper attire. We have a women's officer, an education director and military administration. We even have to stand guard."

In addition to physics and advanced mathematics the students also study many military subjects, among them electronics, aerodynamics, electro-optics, programming and computer systems, operations analysis, communication, mechanics, systems analysis and many others.

One of the Talpiyot graduates is there now, waiting for flight school. He is 21 and wishes to be called A.L. He just finished his first development project in one of the military industries and now would like to try out as a pilot. It is not the first case where graduates want to do something strictly military for a while, before turning to development. Another graduate is already in flight school and others are trying their hand as boat captains or officers with the Parachuting Core. Usually the commanders approve this route. "In my opinion, letting me go to flight school is not a waste. As a pilot and young scientist I will be able to combine the two and develop new systems from the point of view and needs of the pilot," says A.L.

A.L. says that in flash back he almost forgot why he wanted to go to Talpiyot. "I only remember that I was asked to take many tests, without being told what they were all about. At that time the project was still secret. No one heard about it and that is why I never considered spending my military tenure in this framework. After I passed the tests, we were told about our mission in very few sentences. I was very excited and decided to volunteer to Talpiyot, rather than to the Academic Core or to flight school. I have not regretted this decision."

A.L. explains why he wants to remain anonymous. "You see, today we are very valuable to the army and a target for our enemies. We know too much and in the future we will have knowledge of the most sensitive nature. Secondly, I am just starting as a pilot and the less said the better, especially since any utterance may be a reason for expulsion." A.L. explains that studies in the project's framework are more intensive than in the university. "We have to maintain a minimum grade level. We are not allowed to skip classes and at the end of the year 30 percent of us are dropped."

In the course of the program and during military training, the cadets have accumulated many brilliant ideas which were developed collectively. Relates A.L.: "Once, following cannon training, we sat down and designed a new cannon, with wild imaginary improvements. Another time, in the armored unit, we decided to change the concept of the tank and modify it for the IDF. Many times ideas were thrown in which seemed too wild but on second thought we showed that they could be implemented. Some ideas were passed on to our commanders and I personally know of some which reached very high echelons. What happened to them may become known only in several years."

The Ego Trip

After a day of studying the cadets can be found practicing the material in their dormitory rooms. In Oren's and 'Adi's room this reporter found five more Talpiyot cadets, drinking coffee and telling jokes. They completed work for the day and they will prepare for the next day "in the small hours of the night." In the meantime, they relax. Living conditions in the dormitories are optimal. Two per room. The rooms are large, with comfortable wooden beds, a huge closet and a desk for two. No one complains. "All told," they say, "the highest standard of dormitory life."

Among the five: Eytan, Roni, Mati, Amir and Hanan, as well as the cadet on duty, Ran, the only one in uniform after classes -- Air Force uniform, with the parachuting emblem on his chest and the stripes on his shoulders. Ran, of Petah-Tikva, tells an anecdote from officers' school. "We went out in two's, for a night exercise. We lost our way. My partner, from the Golani [Brigade], wanted to return to the point from which we got lost. I explained to him that another route was also possible, which we had not gone over. With simple geometric calculations and a few formulas it was possible to find the location of the next point. I explained to him that the solution could be calculated with cosines. He answered, curses on you, stop cursing my mother and let's return already. After a lot of cajoling he agreed to try my route and we were among the first ones at the final point."

Oren interrupts the cadet on duty and tells something that happened to him during cannon training: "When we learned about the David computer, one of the Talpiyot cadets who is interested in computers did not quite see why the David is so sophisticated. That night he sat down and wrote several programs for his sophisticated pocket calculator. The next day he demonstrated that his calculator, 10 cm of it, could do almost everything that the David could, and just as fast."

"It scares me to voice my ideas before I test them thoroughly," says Hanan and adds: "People take every word of mine seriously and are sure that this is the best idea ever conceived. The fact is that this is just not so. In my opinion our goal is to add good manpower to our development system and bring about an acceleration in new avenues. But all of it is on the level of a starting scientist, nothing earth shattering. It is just unrealistic to think otherwise. During the first year I had the feeling that the institution next to us was designed to house all our ideas about reinventing the wheel."

In the meantime the interviewed group is joined by the son of a former minister who is also a Talpiyot cadet and one of the women of the first year who came for some help in physics from a third year student. The cadets talk a lot about their long commitment. At the same time, no one regrets opting for that route and almost everyone would do it again. Some explain it with the desire to be in a quality group. "We came because of the ego," they say. After enlisting, "a senior colonel gets up there, says he has the honor of addressing the best the country has produced and requests permission of the mothers to shake hands with their children. After that it is difficult to disappoint the parents," says Eytan.

How do the Talpiyot cadets see their mission? Do they not abhor the idea of developing weapon systems whose goal it is to kill more people?

A loud debate erupted. Some were angry with the questions. Some tried to apologize: "We are not the ones to pull the trigger...We are at the end of the chain. One does not feel and one does not always know where development may lead. Actually, none of us came here in order to produce a bomb capable of killing more people in less time."

After they all calmed down the cadets started thinking and explaining things logically. "Most of what we will be doing in the future will be to develop defense systems, warning and intelligence systems, improved communication systems, electronic warfare and improving our soldiers' survivability."

Yet, they stated that they are proud participants in the improvement of our security. The more sophisticated our systems are, the better our survival chances in this cruel world. In this regard we cannot afford to be pacifists, to forsake the sword and pray for the best. In order to postpone and prevent war, we have to be leading in many systems. This is the condition for true peace."

8646

CSO: 4423/21

JORDAN

VARIOUS AL-'AQABAH PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS REVIEWED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Mar 85 p 6

[Article by Taysir al-Majali: "Abu Nawwar Reviews the Al-'Aqabah Region Authority Projects: A Plan To Develop the Region and Define 5-Year Plan Priorities"]

[Text] The city of al-'Aqabah, Jordan's cheerful outlet, is considered one of the main cities to which the people of Jordan are looking as a strategic, important economic center. Therefore it was necessary to create an official authority or board on whose shoulders the development and improvement of this city and consequently the al-'Aqabah region would lie, in view of the great importance it possesses in supporting the domestic economy, especially from the standpoint of industry and tourist activity.

The report to establish the al- Aqabah Region Authority, which has been assigned the task of developing, organizing and improving this region arose from these premises.

To shed more light on the al-'Aqabah Region Authority and the role it plays, the Jordanian news agency PETRA had a meeting with Mr Muhammad Sa'id Abu Nawwar, chairman of the Region Authority, who reviewed the most important projects and studies the authority is carrying out in the region's areas. He said:

Last year the authority absorbed all the construction stages and defined the peripheral and basic issues which the city of al-'Aqabah and the areas surrounding it are suffering from. Their history goes back more than 20 years; the planning committee for the city of al-'Aqabah proceeded to carry out some of them at that date."

He added that this is considered the authority's actual, practical year since it has used two of its general consultants to set out a practical plan to develop the region, especially the large housing communities such as al-'Aqabah, al-Quwayrah and the areas surrounding them, from the various economic, social and developmental standpoints, as well as organizing the towns and villages and defining a scale of priorities for the 5-year plan which the authority has set out for that purpose and whose execution will actually begin at the start of the coming year.

Mr Abu Nuwar pointed out that the authority has been able to prepare all the planning conditions for establishing economic and developmental projects in the various areas of the region, raise the level of public services and carry out maintenance and beautification work in all the developed regions, as well as making a list of substandard conditions in areas which have not been developed in the city of al-'Aqabah, especially the al-Shalalah district and the old town, preparatory to remedying them and correcting their condition. He pointed out that good cooperation between the agencies concerned and the citizens in the town had resulted in facilitating these agencies' tasks.

He said that as a result of a number of meetings the authority's board of directors held in the past 3 months, executive programs and practical plans had been set out for a number of projects. He pointed out that the authority's board of directors had given agreement at its latest session to a number of projects whose construction would start in the middle of this year, among the most prominent of which were the development of the structural detailed plan for the city of al-'Aqabah and the setting out of provisions and statutes for redevelopment there in a manner which would meet development objectives up to 2000.

He pointed out that all the plan documents would be handed over to al-'Aqabah municipality in the second half of this year after the municipality's agencies and revenues had been reorganized and strengthened and the authority board of directors has given agreement to organizing, developing and subdividing the al-Hafayir area on the central shore of the town. That area has properties which are split up among a large number of citizens and the government treasury. That part of the shore constitutes the tourist heart of the city and its new face on the Gulf of al-'Aqabah. He stated that the development of this area had remained frozen for a period of more than 20 years in anticipation of a chance which would allow for its planning and development, on grounds that this area is one of the best parts of the shore for tourist and economic purposes.

The Prince Hamzah Gardens

Mr Abu Nawwar added that one of the most important projects which the authority would proceed to construct this year was the Prince Hamzah Gardens, since a comprehensive plan had been set out for carrying this project out in the north-western area.

This includes a palm grove which contains 10,000 date palms and 10,000 citrus trees.

It also includes a village for tourist sports which will be constructed by the private sector in participation with the al-'Aqabah municipality, in addition to a nucleus for a sports village, gardens and public parks and a national center for desert and coastal tree and plant research. He pointed out that this project would be carried out in cooperation with various public and private economic organizations over a territory 5,000 donums in area.

Ground Transportation

As regards the subject of the difficulties and problems ground transportation is facing, Mr Abu Nawwar stated that as a result of the studies the regional authority carried out in the past 6 months, the objective for which it was formed, the ministerial committee discussed the proposed solutions in the course of meetings it held in the city of al-'Aqabah at the end of last month and reached positive conclusions on this issue. He pointed out that the regional authority was now carrying out some decisions related to it in this regard, among the most prominent of which was the redesign and reconstruction of the main intersections at the entrance to the town, the reorganization of the truck complex and control of truck movement, until this complex could be moved to the back road which the Ministry of Public Works would proceed to build at the beginning of next year.

He added that a service station would be erected for trucks 26 kilometers north of the city of al-'Aqabah on the public road in order to absorb pressure from the city and accommodate all trucks as a temporary solution until the permanent site for trucks was prepared after the proposed road was completed.

The Authority's Projects

On the authority's projects in the al-Quwayrah area, Mr Abu Nawwar said that the municipality of al-Quwayrah was the initial sight in the al-'Aqabah region. Therefore it would get a large share of the authority's projects. He pointed out that the authority's board of directors, at its last session, approved the new organizational plan for the municipality which includes the enlargement of the municipality's boundaries and the provision of various public facilities and services for it, in view of the construction statutes and provisions which have been set out there in a manner which will meet the goals of the municipality's growth and development.

The authority has also started to carry out some youth and cultural projects in the municipality by creating a youth center which will be finished at the end of this year on the occasion of International Youth Year, as a contribution by the authority to support cultural and youth activity.

11887
CSO:4404/262

JORDAN

BRIEFS

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WAGE HIKE--The Council of Ministers has decided to increase the salaries of special grade government employees, employees who are not categorized and employees on contract who are not subject to the salary scale stipulated in the civil service system, and the wages of day workers. This was stated in a communique issued by Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the prime minister; this decree will go into effect as of the first of this month. Herewith is the text of the communique: "First: A. An increase in basic salary of employees in the special grade by 30 dinars a month. B. An increase in the basic salary stipulated for categorized employees who receive a corresponding basic salary, provided that this increase not be less than 9 dinars. C. An increase in the basic salary of government employees on contracts which show their salary, up to the amount of the increase stipulated for categorized government employees who are their equivalent in terms of basic salary, in accordance with the Civil Service Statute. D. An increase of 10 percent of total salary in the total salary of employees on contracts which do not show their basic salary, provided that this increase be not less than 9 dinars and not exceed 35 dinars. Second: An increase of 200 fils a day in wages for day workers working in ministries, departments and organizations whose positions are listed in the organization charts for positions in ministries and government departments. Third: This decree will be in effect as of 1 March 1985 and the accounts will be settled by the General Budget Department until the organization chart for positions for the year 1985 is issued. Fourth. The ministers and competent directors of departments will be assigned to carry out this decree. [Text] [Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 13 Mar 85 pp 1, 19] 11887

JORDANIZATION OF BANKS--The plan to "Jordanize" foreign banks operating in Jordan has begun to meet serious opposition in the wake of the inclusion of the Arab Bank, the biggest Bank operating in Jordan, in the ranks of the eight foreign banks which had previously reached consensus on opposing the plan, which intends to complete the "Jordanization" process at the end of 1986. The Arab Bank disclosed its opposition to the Jordanian government's plan in its annual report for 1984, where it frankly declared that the recommendation to give Jordanian citizens a 51 percent share of the stock in the eight foreign banks conflicted with the interests of a country such as Jordan which had chosen to open its doors wide to the foreign world. The plan to "Jordanize" banks stirred up broad controversy in Amman from the time it was announced in 1983 and has met with the approval of only two foreign organizations, the Arab Territory Bank and Grindlay's Bank; meanwhile, the other foreign banks have opposed the relinquishment of more than the Arab Bank clearly opposing the government plan could mean the government's retreat from the "Jordanization" decree. The bank considered the

"Jordanization" plan to be unsuitable for the banking sector in the country, basically and in terms of timing, since it is taking place under circumstances when the Jordanian economy is passing through a state of stagnation whose burden has been increased by the drop in financial remittances from abroad and increasing difficulties facing the money market. Informed bankers add that the Jordanian economy is passing through a state of stagnation whose burden has been increased by the drop in financial remittances from abroad and increasing difficulties facing the money market. Informed bankers add that the Jordanian money market does not have purchasers of shares in the banks to be "Jordanized." The Jordanization plan seems to be faltering at present and banking circles in Amman do not consider it inconceivable that increasing opposition to the plan will lead to the failure to apply it by the government itself and that the Arab Bank will play the major role in persuading the Jordanian government to abandon the plan. The eight foreign banks affected by the "Jordanization" measures are the Commerce Bank, the British Bank of the Middle East, the Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, Grindlay's Bank and the al-Rafidayn Bank. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 22 Mar 85 p 53] 11887

CSO: 4404/262

LEBANON

BRIEFS

CUSTOMS DUTIES--Customs duties payable to the treasury during 1984 decreased 63.7 percent from the 1983 level. This came as a shock to the concerned parties, who had hoped to collect duties exceeding 3 billion pounds based on budget estimates. The customs duties amounted to 461 million pounds versus 1,272,000,000 pounds in 1983. Moreover, the 1984 level was less than the collections achieved prior to 1983, which were 403 million in 1982, 435 million in 1981, 682.8 million in 1980, 682 million in 1979, and 720 million in 1978. The revenues for 1984 were distributed as follows: 50.1 percent for the port of Beirut, 10.3 percent for the Beirut airport, 15.8 percent for the port of Tripoli, 16.2 percent for the port of Juniyah, 6.2 percent for al-Masna' (the Syrian border), and 1.4 percent for the port of Sayda. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 19 Jan 85 p 49] 8591

CONSTRUCTION FINANCING SHORTFALL--The Lebanese cabinet has approved the construction spending program for 1985 drawn up by the Development and Construction Council. The expected cost of construction spending based on the projects specified in the program is estimated at 4.03 billion pounds. This sum is distributed among the following sectors: education, agriculture, industry, housing, central Beirut commercial district reconstruction, water projects, communications projects, the restoration of public departments, roads and ports. The program emphasizes the impossibility of relying on Lebanon's development capabilities in financing the cost of the anticipated construction spending and advises that reliance on foreign aid is a necessary approach in order to accelerate the construction process (70 percent of the program cost). The program sets the average level of construction spending over the next 8 to 9 years at approximately 9 billion pounds per year. This would require that an average annual flow of foreign aid estimated at \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion be guaranteed. The optimum form for this aid would be roughly as follows: 50 to 60 percent grants, 20 to 30 percent long-term low interest loans (soft loans), 20 to 35 percent financial protocol loans (mixed loans), and the remainder domestic and foreign commercial loans. According to the construction program for 1985, the provinces of Lebanon will benefit from the projects specified in the program as follows: projects in greater Beirut, 26 percent; projects in Jabal Lubnan province, 25 percent; projects in al-Shamal province, 15 percent; projects in al-Biqa' province, 13 percent; and projects in al-Janub province, 15 percent. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 26 Jan 85 p 31] 8591

CSO: 4404/200

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

ARAB SUMMIT TO FORMULATE STRONG NEGOTIATING POSITION URGED

A-man AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Mar 85 p 16

[Article by Karim Khalaf, former mayor of Ramallah, who died 30 March 85: "A Just Peace Imposed by a United Arab Stand"]

[Text] Strengthening the Arab scene and solving current problems which are pending among the countries on this scene must be the watchword which all sincere persons in the Great Arab nation raise. The question which presents itself forcefully and insistently and for which it is necessary to find a practical translation is, When will the era of Arab decline end? How can the atmosphere of fragmentation and division which has become a distinctive characteristic of a scene which had been advancing toward glory and forging glory be dispelled? What amazes and saddens us is the speed of the change in the initiatives. A position is seized upon, we hope that people will rally around it. We advocate it, and this approach quickly dies out. We once again enter new dark mazes which are fraught with accusations and recriminations on all sides, and stagnation continues to dominate the situation as long as the Arabs keep the latest alternative out of their calculations.

There is no more serious, delicate, difficult stage than the one the Palestinian people and the Arab people are living through now. If the Arabs do not confront this stage properly, the results of the repercussions of the events they witness will be extremely grave and difficult. Consequently keeping the situation in the Arab nation as it is, in the form of a disregard of what is going on and what is being hatched and carried out, may violently dispel what glories are left to this nation.

There are active political moves on the international stage, including the scene of conflict -- moves which everyone is anxious to say are for the sake of peace and termination of the struggle. Everyone interprets things in accordance with his notions and in accordance with what conforms to his calculations. Even the people who reject peace, do not want it and place obstacles on the road to it boast of acting for the sake of peace, and there is no meeting of minds regarding the situation. It is true that the international community has become more convinced of the justice of the Palestinian cause, and it is true that it is acting to create a solution to this cause, out of fear of the negative repercussions that result from this cause's remaining unsolved. However, all the efforts which have been made will not be able to move the American position an inch and they will continue to be one of hostility to the aspirations and goals of the Arab nation unless a unified Arab position came to the fore which will be able to cope with this hostile position.

No political solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle will be destined to succeed unless the world realizes that there is a homogeneous Arab stage. The just political solution will require a force to support and protect it. Had a state of seriousness, homogeneity and solidarity dominated the Arab scene, the Palestinian problem would not have survived up to now and some parties would not have continued with their stubbornness and continued to the point of raising defiance before all the Arab peoples.

The fact which many Arab countries are continuing to ignore is their failure yet to realize, in spite of all the bitter tragedies and events, that the challenges which do not just have the Palestinian people but also all the Arab peoples as their target and aim at moving the Palestinian rock are a conspiracy to penetrate into Arab territory, from the ocean to the Gulf. All the attempts to crush this rock have smashed against it so far, and it has remained an obstacle as an instrument in the face of all liquidationist, capitulationist solutions. In order for the Arab countries to guarantee stability, confidence and even welfare, they must defend Palestinian rights, not use them as a bridge for advancing devious hostile schemes which are not in any way in the interests of the Arab masses.

The United States, having felt that there is an international conviction in the need to find a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli struggle, found itself compelled to strike out at this international conviction and polarization and to put a halt to support for the Palestinian cause. It is afraid of the Soviet Union's participation in finding a solution; Moscow's participation will mean that Washington will not be able to impose what it wants or manipulate the fate of the region. Therefore Washington has determined on media "sermons" and lethal theoretical premises sheathed in protestations of deep concern for peace, security and stability, while in reality it is acting in a manner different from that.

As long as the Arab stage is experiencing impotence, in its most conspicuous and extreme degrees and highest extent, a just political solution will not be achieved and consequently all the political movements which take place and are exerted will be sterile efforts, since these movements might not bring us to the hopes which we aspire to, unless there is a unified Arab position and an Arab force exerting pressure and bringing things back to their proper perspective.

What cuts into one's spirit is that in spite of the seriousness of the present stage, the vicious nature of the challenges and the roles which have been planned, the majority of Arab countries are living in another world, as if the matter does not concern them, although in reality they are its target. None of the grave events, terrifying movements and obstinacies of position which are taking place have prompted the Arab countries to take a step in confronting the developments.

Why isn't an Arab summit held which will take up a discussion of all the events that are taking place and all the movements which are underway? Why don't the Arab rulers meet to set out a comprehensive strategy which will protect Arab rights and ward off the dangers and challenges facing this nation?

The danger bell is tolling. Will the Arab countries arise from their torpor and face the hostile American program bravely and with a firm position? Why not?

Many question marks extend over the entire length of the nation, from the ocean to the Gulf.

11887

CSO: 4404/262

SAUDI ARABIA

ELECTRICITY MINISTER DISCUSSES INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, EXPORTS

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 85 p 5

[Interview with Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity Engr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil, by al-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad: "The Industrial Sector Will Work to Achieve the Plan's Goals; We Hope That the Commercial Companies"; Will Become Industrial Companies;" in Riyadh, date not specified]

[Text] During an interview granted to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Industry and Electricity Engr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil said that while achieving a 15.5 percent growth rate for the industrial sector during the new 5-year plan might seem to be an ambitious goal, the industrial sector will nevertheless make every effort to achieve it. Al-Zamil added that he is convinced that the petrochemical sector could grow at a rate of 15 percent, since more Saudi Basic Industries Company [SABIC] industries will begin production, and that the non-petrochemical sector could grow at a rate of 10 percent. The projected growth rate could be realized once the National Industrialization Company projects, the new pharmaceuticals company, and perhaps some of the Economic Equilibrium Program projects begin production.

In the interview, the minister stressed his hope that the plan will see the establishment of major Saudi companies in the field of commercial exchange, and their possible transformation into industrial companies. During the past fiscal year, Saudi Arabia's imports amounted to 119 million Saudi riyals, most of them coming from Japan, the United States, Britain, Italy and West Germany. The minister was asked about the incentives which might be offered to foreign investors to get them to invest in the Kingdom instead of being content with exporting to it.

He replied, "Their main drive is to keep their foothold in this growing market over the long run. We have seen that the companies which concentrate on exports alone have gradually begun losing their share of the market. Take Japan, for example. Should it content itself with just exporting, there would be other countries which would export the same goods as Japan does, in competition from the standpoint of quality and price. If Japan does not get a foothold in manufacturing some of these products [here], it might lose part of its market to other exporters."

Manufacturing Products In Saudi Arabia

Al-Zamil added, "It makes sense for us to ask the countries which export to us to try to manufacture some of these products in the Kingdom. Ultimately, we are not asking that all of the products be manufactured here; only as much as can be economically produced here. Actually, the important thing is that the initiative has to come from Saudi businessmen, not from foreign investors. Therefore, my mission is to direct them to Saudi businessmen at the same time."

Speaking of the part which the ministry could play here, al-Zamil said that the ministry has reviewed all licenses which have been issued but not used. This resulted in a list of about 400 projects the licenses of which the ministry will consider cancelling because the owners are not making use of them. This list will be made available to any foreign investor who wants to see it, so he can make use of it.

An Export Company

The minister has also suggested to the Council of Chambers of Commerce and Industry that the idea of establishing an export company, which would serve all industries with export potentials, be adopted. This would require concerted efforts, especially from the standpoint of cost and required expertise. Al-Zamil added that during the first 3 months of this Hijrah year, industrial exports totalled about 300 million riyals. However, he is convinced that there are immediate potentials, especially if the proposed company could provide some marketing services in which it might be proficient and which might give it a share in the industries with which it would be dealing.

Continuing on with the 5-year plan, al-Zamil said that the most important thing is to complete the industrial city projects which have been scheduled. The plan provides for the establishment of seven new industrial city projects covering 5 million square meters in various parts of the Kingdom. The minister also added that he hopes that the impetus begun by the private sector in the industrial field will continue, an impetus which is manifest in the many applications submitted to the Industrial Development Fund. Al-Zamil declared that his ministry would help by providing a data base on the industrial sector, and any other information on industrial opportunities which must be made available to businessmen in order to help them in decision-making and in their domestic and foreign marketing activity.

The Economic Equilibrium Program

With respect to the economic equilibrium project, and whether one or more general companies have been chosen to participate in it as stipulated by the guidelines drawn up for the program, al-Zamil said that the National Industrialization Company and the Saudi Basic Industries Company [SABIC] might come into the project. However, on his part he is suggesting the establishment of one or more industrial holding companies to be involved in investment. They

don't have to be large companies; they could even be companies with limited responsibilities. Such companies, if established, could possibly take part in economic equilibrium projects. However, a final decision has not yet been made. Each project may be considered on its own, and studies made on which Saudi company could participate in it.

The Saudi Side Must Be Brought In

The equilibrium project requires the foreign companies entering into it to invest part of the money they get from the Salam Armor [dir' al-salam] contract in projects within the Kingdom, in partnership with Saudi companies. A group led by Boeing and Westinghouse, and another group led by General Electric, have won the contract.

The first group will have nine projects, and the second group will have one. Both groups are waiting for the Saudi companies which will join with them in carrying out the projects, since they must begin final feasibility studies and actual construction in less than a year's time.

With reference to the projects proposed by the companies which had bid against Boeing and had lost, al-Zamil said that these projects and the time and effort which had gone into their preparation will be made use of. His ministry intends to set up a unit which will devote part of its efforts to determining which projects need to be promoted. In doing so, it will look into these projects in detail, in order to make use of them and find foreign investors to go into them along with Saudi companies. However, it will take a year or two for this to become reality.

8559

CSO: 4404/274

SAUDI ARABIA

QUARTERLY INDUSTRIAL EXPORT STATISTICS ISSUED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Apr 85 p 4

[Article: "302 Million Saudi Riyals in Saudi Industrial Exports For the Quarter; the Saudi Petrochemicals Company Begins Producing New Substances"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia's Acting Deputy Minister of Industry and Electricity Engr Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Khafrah has announced that this year's first quarter exports by national industries amounted to 302 million Saudi riyals. He explained that out of this, exports by conversion industries accounted for 112 million riyals, while exports of liquid methanol, low density polyethylene and fertilizer accounted for 190 million riyals.

Engr al-Khafrah stressed that national industry has proven its worth on the domestic and the foreign market, as attested to by its competitors. He pointed out that there are many diverse industrial opportunities for establishing industries in all fields, and expressed his hope that commercial companies in the industrial nations would participate with Saudi businessmen in investing in industry, so that effective, fruitful cooperation can continue so as to achieve the fourth development plan's goal of diversifying the industrial base and increasing its share in the gross national product.

In another context, the Saudi Petrochemicals Company [SADAF] recently began producing bi-chloride ethylene, an important ingredient of vinyl chloride.

Saudi Basic Industries Company [SABIC] Deputy Board Chairman and Delegate Member Ibrahim bin Salmah announced that the SADAF group had been designed to produce 656,000 tons of ethylene, 271,000 metric tons of crude industrial ethanol, 295,000 metric tons of styrene, 377,000 metric tons of caustic soda, and 454,000 metric tons of bi-chloride ethylene a year.

Bin Salmah explained that vinyl chloride is considered the most important thermal plastic now being used in the construction industries, for such items as household furniture and insulation for wires and cables. Furthermore, styrene is commercially important and is used in manufacturing appliances, electronic equipment, buildings and household utensils.

He added that caustic soda is used in chemical treatments, for treating paper and paper pulp, producing aluminum, soap and cleaning agents, refining petroleum, and producing soda ash, in addition to its use in the glass industry.

SADAF is one of SABIC's companies and was established at the al-Jubayl Industrial City in November 1980.

8559

CSO: 4404/274

SAUDI ARABIA

RIYADH OIL REFINERY IMPROVES PRODUCTION, SAFETY

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Apr 85 p 4

[Article by Muhammad al-Khalifi: "New Expansions at the Riyadh Oil Refinery To Raise Its Production Capacity to 20,000 Barrels a Day"]

[Text] New expansions have been carried out at the Riyadh Oil Refinery, including simple adjustments to some processing units and the pipe network. In addition, the production capacity of the unit which stabilizes and removes salt from the crude oil had been increased to keep pace with the constant increase in consumption by Central Province plants and the electric company. As a result, the refinery's first phase refining capacity has risen from 15,000 to 20,000 barrels a day.

Early in 1981, the refinery's second expansion project entered the production stage, and thus the projected refining capacity was raised to 120,000 barrels a day, with the possibility of a further increase if necessary. This phase included the construction of a sewage treatment plant for the city of Riyadh, for use in the various purposes necessary for refining operations. This unit is considered one of the largest of its type in the world.

Providing Security and Safety Conditions

As for security and safety conditions at the refinery, Delegate Executive Member for Production Engr Sa'ud al-Jawhar says that in its refining, storage and transport operations, the refinery adheres to world standards pertaining to the safety of installations and workers, as well as to all the directives of the Interior Ministry's Supreme Authority for Industrial Security.

During 1984, the refinery carried out several projects to improve safety, including the construction of a special storage area for the foam used in fighting fires, the extension of pipelines to existing fuel oil storage tanks, the addition of spray nozzles to the refinery's existing firefighting equipment, and the installation of an emergency water spray system to meet demands in the refining areas, in addition to equipping the refinery's chlorine room with a system to evacuate the air in case of emergency.

Production at the refinery proceeds through a series of modern systems and technical channels. Just recently a control room was set up to monitor the stabilization and salt removal units. This room was designed according to the most modern, high-level international systems, in order to achieve security and safety in accordance with the directives of the agencies specializing in this matter. The unit which removes salt from the crude oil has begun operating at a 100,000 barrel a day capacity. The storage tanks are measured by an efficient electronic system.

Training Saudi Manpower

Director General of Administration for the refinery Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sirhan adds that the success of any industrial project depends primarily on the proper selection, training, and efficiency of its labor force. For this reason, the refinery's management has consistently concentrated on developing and increasing the efficiency of the Saudi employees working there. For example, during 1984 the refinery management appointed a total of 225 new employees, of which 210, or 93 percent, were Saudis.

As for training, the refinery runs the regional PETROMIN training center, so that worker training can be provided at the refinery and at other PETROMIN projects in the Central Province. Through the training center, the refinery provides several training programs for various areas of work, such as maintenance, operation, testing and safety, as well as classes in the English language, inasmuch as this language is fundamental to comprehending modern technological methods.

At the Riyadh PETROLUBE plant, university students will see the great advances which PETROMIN has made in mixing oils, at its own PETROMIN mixer and at others belonging to international companies.

In mixing its oils, PETROMIN utilizes its own proportions, which were arrived at, praise God, through exhaustive research and studies aimed at arriving at a particular type of lubrication oil which would primarily be suited to the climate of Saudi Arabia, inasmuch as the Kingdom is PETROMIN's basic market.

PETROMIN's production of lubrication oils jumped from 40,000 barrels a day in 1973 to almost 1.2 million barrels a day by the end of 1984. This product meets the most modern international specifications for the production of oil, which has led major international automobile engine and equipment manufacturers to recommend the use of this type of lubricating oil.

8559

CSO: 4404/274

SAUDI ARABIA

EASTERN PROVINCE SITE OF MANY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Apr 85 p 4

[Article: "Construction Projects in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province To Cost 76 Million Saudi Riyals Over 1 Year"]

[Text] During Fiscal Year 1984-85, construction projects and completed contracts in several Eastern Province towns cost over 76 million Saudi riyals.

This was announced by the Eastern Province's Director General of Municipal and Village Affairs Ahmad al-Mish'al, who mentioned that these projects and contracts include completing the directorate's Dammam building, walling seven of the province's cemeteries, paving streets in several Eastern Province villages as part of the province's village development program, filling in low-lying areas, constructing a central market for al-Khafaji, and paving streets, laying sidewalks, providing lighting, walling and landscaping parks, temporary paving and lighting, and building a sea wall along the corniche in al-Jubayl.

He pointed out that work is now under way on several projects awarded during the past fiscal year, including a sewer and flood water drainage project and the upgrading of the water grid in Safwa, which includes supervision, studies and expropriation of property.

Also, a study is being made of sewer and rain water drainage in al-Jubayl, livestock markets are being built at al-Sahhaf, al-Hasi, 'Ayn Dar and al-Tamamah, five other cattle markets are being built at Umm al-Hawshat, al-Shayhiyah, al-'Adhiriyah, Ma'rah al-Suban, and Umm Kaddad, and streets in 'Ayn Dar are being paved.

In addition, a project to pave, lay sidewalks for and light King Faysal Street and the low income housing development in al-Khafaji is being carried out at a cost of more than 15 million riyals. Projects are under way to wall and landscape parks and expropriate property in al-Jubayl, make a green belt around Rahimah, and pave, lay sidewalks, light streets, provide landscaping, and wall in cemeteries in the village of Sha'ab, at a cost of 37,889,313 riyals.

In Baqiq, work is under way on a 541,720 riyal project to wall in cemeteries. Streets in the industrial area of al-Nu'ayriyah are being paved and provided with sidewalks and street lights at a cost of 831,000 riyals.

Awarding Project Contracts

The director general of municipal and village affairs added that there are several projects and bids that have been awarded recently preparatory to construction, such as paving and lighting streets in the villages of al-Shahiyah, al-Shamiyah, Umm Ghawr and Umm al-Hawshat, part of the Jararah complex, at a cost of 14.999 million riyals, as part of the Eastern Province village development program. There is also a 500,000-riyal project to wall and landscape parks and build a new fish market in al-Jubayl.

Ahmad al-Mish'al mentioned that studies are being completed and specifications drawn up for several projects prior to awarding bids, such as the projects for temporary paving, street lighting, building vegetable and meat markets, walling cemeteries, and building laundries, slaughterhouses and public toilets in several of the province's villages; constructing a building for the al-'Ulaya village complex; building a slaughterhouse, fencing a cemetery, and building five livestock markets at al-Nu'ayriyah and Baqiq and four in Jararah.

There are also projects to pave al-Thiqafah Street, temporarily pave other streets, build a sea wall and pave a rest stop at al-Khafaji; to pave, lay sidewalks and provide street lights for several streets and side streets on the south side of al-Jubayl; to survey al-Jubayl; to construct a slaughterhouse, temporarily or permanently pave several streets, lay sidewalks and provide street lights in Rahimah; to temporarily or permanently pave, light, and lay sidewalks for several streets in the western industrial zone and the al-Badiyah quarter of Baqiq; and to temporarily pave and provide lighting for streets in the village of al-'Ulaya and the nearby villages of al-Shayt and Umm al-Shaflah.

8559

CSO: 4404/274

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL LOANS--During the past fiscal year, a total of 56,444,333 Saudi riyals were allocated for Saudi Arabia's Agricultural Bank loans for Qatif. Agricultural subsidies allocated during the same fiscal year amounted to 40 million riyals. Director of the bank's Qatif office Muhammad al-Mu'jil mentioned that during the above-mentioned period the office provided 149 assorted loans, including 60 loans totalling 12,837,490 riyals to farmers and five loans totalling 27,974,315 riyals for agricultural projects. He added that these projects included a 24,750-hen egg production project, each production cycle of which will produce 5.445 million eggs; three wheat and fodder production products each of which will produce an estimated 1,776 tons of wheat and 1,015 tons of white sorghum a year; and a sheep-fattening project which will process an estimated 28,800 head yearly. Also included were 84 loans totalling 8,639,146 riyals to fishermen. Al-Mu'jil explained that these loans included 15,993,310 riyals for wheat projects, 2,967,465 riyals for sheep-raising projects, 3,804,994 riyals for poultry projects, 7,994,169 riyals for boats and fishing equipment, 940,506 riyals for agricultural equipment, and 317,917 riyals for machines and pumps. The director of the bank's Qatif office added that 600,995 riyals were disbursed for irrigation equipment, 2,394,016 riyals for constructing several plastic houses, 1,078,099 riyals for palm seedlings and fruit trees, 1,382,671 riyals for fertilizers, and 6,364,246 riyals for assorted agricultural equipment. These loans and subsidies illustrate the great concern being given by the Saudi government to farmers and agriculture, in order to bring the agricultural sector up to the highest levels. [Text] [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 85 p 5] 8559

CSO: 4404/274

1 May 1985

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

BRIEFS

'ABD-AL-FATTAH ISMA'IL RETURNS--Comrade 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary of the general department of the Central Committee secretariat, returned to Aden. He was met at the airport by Comrade Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee. [Text] [Aden 14 UKTUBAR in Arabic 8 Mar 85 p 1]

CSO: 4404/294

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD TELLS STAND ON NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Sunday said that national elections would be held wherever the political parties want it, after the referendum on March 21.

He also declared that he was ready to accept the verdict of the people and transfer power to the elected representatives.

The President was addressing the Chairmen and Commissioners of Paurashavas, Chairmen and members of the Union Parishads of the Dhaka Division at Shere-e-Bangla Nagar.

Explaining the background of holding the referendum to assess whether people had confidence in his policies and in his continuation as President till the national elections were held under the suspended constitution, the President told the Local Government leaders that March 21 was going to be an important day in national life. "It would be a day to restore peace and order, to hold the next elections properly, because people would give their verdict. I would accept whatever verdict they give," he declared.

He further said that the referendum was aimed at establishing peace and discipline and restore congenial atmosphere for holding the elections. He said that he had to go for the referendum when all his sincere efforts for transition to democracy through elections failed because of the negative attitude of certain self-seeking politicians.

They always came up with numerous demands one after another. But they refused to go to the polls as they were afraid to face the people as they did not have any economic programme or a clean record of the past. The President further said no one has the right to deprive the people of their fundamental rights to choose an elected government to run the country.

President Ershal narrated the consistent efforts to introduce a healthy political process for the welfare of the commonman, particularly those living in the 68,000 villages since he took over the responsibility of running the country. He further said that his Government believed in politics which would ensure rational development and welfare of the ten crore people.

Referring to the steps taken by his Government for transition to democracy President Ershad said that all these were done to fulfil his commitment to the nation. In this connection he referred to the holding of union parishad and paurashava elections with spontaneous cooperation of the people. It manifests his sincerity to establish democracy.

President Ershad also referred to the now postponed upazila elections and expressed his firm conviction that the upazila polls would be held with active cooperation of the people.

President Ershad narrated that his Government had taken a number of epoch-making revolutionary reformative measures during the last three years to accelerate the pace of national development and improve the lot of the common-man. He mentioned the decentralisation of administration that took the Government to the door-steps of the rural people and the land reforms which established the due rights of the farmers.

Maj Gen Mahmudul Hasan, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, Cooperatives and Public Works also spoke on occasion.

CSO: 4600/1433

BANGLADESH

REACTION TO ERSHAD REFERENDUM ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTED

Political, Cultural Organizations

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Some more political, social and cultural organisations yesterday welcomed the March 21 referendum announced by the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad in his speech over radio and television on Friday evening.

In separate statements leaders of these organisations termed the decision to hold the referendum as a timely and realistic one and lauded the role of General Ershad for peaceful transition to democracy. They also termed the decision as a token of the political sagacity of the President.

Alhaj Shamsul Huda, President, Acting President Rashiduzzaman and Secretary General Alhaj Zamir Ali of Bangladesh Muslim League in a joint statement termed the President's step as a special blessing of Allah and said that with this the nation averted a grave political crisis at least for the time being. The Muslim League leaders said that the President had no alternative other than holding the referendum to avoid a confrontation.

M. M. Abbas Uddin, the General Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Parishad and convenor

of the seven-party Krishak Jukta Front, an alliance of farmers' organisations hailed the decision to hold referendum and said the step was a timely one to eliminate political vacuum.

BSS adds: Bangladesh Jatiya Ulema Front said that the announcement of confidence vote had saved the country from the prevailing political uncertainty and ensured the protection of lives and properties.

In a joint statement, the Front leaders Maulana Mohammad Habibullah, Maulana A K M Faruk, Maulana Rari Ruhul Amin and Mohammad Delwar Hossain Khan said that President Ershad had no other alternative but to hold confidence vote for peaceful transition to democracy.

They appealed to the peace-loving democratic minded and patriotic people to come forward to participate in the confidence vote on March 21.

Jatiya Sangskritik Sangstha in its central committee meeting yesterday said that the announcement of President Ershad for holding the referendum was timely and realistic and expressed full confidence in it.

The Sangstha called upon

the people from all walks of life to make the referendum on March 21 a success.

Nutan Bangla Sechchhasel Samaj said that President Ershad by announcing the date of confidence vote on March 21 had not only saved the country from a serious and indisciplined situation but also averted a 'civil war.'

In a statement, Mr. G L. Kabir, President of the Samaj, expressed the hope that every patriotic citizen and supporter of the 18-point programme would make the coming confidence vote a success.

Former presidential candidate Muhammed Abu Shafi said that the decision for referendum was undoubtedly a wise and courageous step of President Ershad.

In a statement, he hoped that the nation would certainly appreciate the referendum from all corners.

Mr. Khalequzzaman Khan Duda, Chairman, Jatiyatabadi Dal (Duda) said that the steps taken by President Ershad to uphold sovereignty and bring back national stability keeping transition to democracy in view deserved 'congratulations'.

Editorial Welcomes Decision

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Mar 85 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

The government's plan to seek a vote of confidence on March 21 is an expression of its sincere desire to keep direct contact with the people. President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General H. M. Ershad while announcing the programme on Friday was right in pointing out that arranging such an opinion poll is a recognised, established and popular procedure in politics and history to ascertain the views of the people. The suspended constitution of the country also sanctions such methods of seeking people's verdict.

Besides, in the circumstances of a total stalemate on holding elections, forced on the government by unaccommodative attitudes of a section of politicians, organising a referendum appears to be the most reasonable alternative left to the administration. The government can genuinely claim that it was pushed to a point where arranging national elections became impossible. Regrettably enough the impasse emerged despite allowing a number of significant concessions by the military government to prepare grounds for the voting. The administration partially relaxed Martial Law, restored fundamental rights and writ jurisdictions of the High Court and promised to observe full neutrality in the elections.

But it appeared that apart from the government, other important elements like the major po-

litical parties have shunned their responsibility to see the country return to democracy through elections. The political parties made it obvious for the government to choose its own programmes, by their non participation in the polls. It goes to the credit of President Ershad again that he has not yet totally closed the door for political alternatives.

In his speech the President reaffirmed his government's commitment to restore democracy. He has urged politicians for cooperation saying that he himself and his government would be available for contacts, discussions and consultations for the purpose of arriving at a consensus. The President's approach is positive and should be reciprocated with a positive spirit.

The administrative measures which followed the new government programmes also came as a natural consequence of the situation. The deteriorating law and order situation, repeated strikes, clashes and turmoil led the conditions to such a pass that streamlining things had become essential. Bringing the situation back to normal is necessary not only for future political stability but also for much needed economic progress. Uncertainty and indiscipline cannot be allowed to escalate further and the President has correctly asserted that the government cannot remain indifferent about it.

CSO: 4600/1427

1 May 1985

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD DEPUTY'S ACTIVITIES IN MOSCOW REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Mar 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad has expressed the confidence that co-operation and friendship between Bangladesh and the USSR would take 'an added dimension' in the future according to a message received on Friday from the Soviet capital reports BSS.

Rear Admiral Sultan expressed the hope at a meeting he had with the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Mr. V I Litvinenko.

Admiral Sultan who is in Moscow to attend President Chernenko's funeral said he was representing the President and the Government and the people of Bangladesh to share the grief of the Soviet people at the death of the Soviet leader.

He hoped that with the election of 'a new, dynamic and youthful' "leader" as the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU the USSR would reach the new heights of progress and prosperity right into the 21st century.

He recalled the strong moral and material support of the Soviet people and Government to Bangladesh war of independence and material help immediately after liberation.

The two countries the DCMLA expressed the hope would go toward in new areas of fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Soviet Deputy Chairman thanked him for his expression of deep condolences at the death of President Chernenko and for the felicitations to the newly elected party chief. He promised all-out help and cooperation to improve the living conditions of the people of Bangladesh.

CSO: 4600/1439

BANGLADESH

PROBLEMS IN PURCHASE OF U.S. WHEAT ALLEGED, DENIED

TIMES Report on Problems

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Bangladesh government is going to suffer a loss of approximately two million US dollar equivalent to Taka 55 crore in foreign exchange in its purchase of 120,000 metric tons of wheat against cash because of special preference for a particular origin and grade of the commodity.

The wheat is being purchased by the Ministry of Food on cost and freight (C&F) basis to repay India a past loan. The consignment is to be delivered at Indian ports Vishakhapatnam and Madras on or before May 31, 1985.

The Food Ministry floated an international tender last week for buying the wheat out of country's own cash resources but for reasons not easily discernable made it "tied" unlike any such cash purchase in the past.

The tender which will be opened on April 6, 1985 restricts the purchase of wheat from the United States market only.

The tender indicates that the wheat should be of "US grade No 2 or better hard red winter/western white".

According to competent sources, the huge loss will be incurred because of making the purchase "tied" and restricted to a particular country.

Price of American wheat is higher than in Australian and European markets, although the quality is similar. Besides, there is the possibility of the few leading grain houses in the United States continuing together to raise the price still higher by forming a "cartel" in view of the purchase being 'tied'.

Apart from that, it takes about 30 to 35 days for transportation to Indian coast from the USA while in the case of Australia and Europe it requires only 17 and 23 days respectively to reach Indian ports.

Therefore, the sources pointed out, Bangladesh will loose both in the commodity price and transportation charges. The sources said that the per ton loss

on commodity and freight will be a minimum of 15 US dollar and therefore the total net loss comes to about 2 million US dollar.

It may be mentioned here that the Food Ministry also in the past made many cash purchases for wheat through international tenders, but never before it restricted the supply from a single country or a particular grade.

The business circles believe that the possible loss can still be avoided if the authorities lift the restriction which binds the tenderers and also allows supplies from other countries as well to get the best and cheapest offers.

It could not be ascertained whether the Indian authorities have asked Bangladesh to return to this particular U.S.A. origin and grade wheat. Even if India does it, being a friendly country Bangladesh authorities for the sake of avoiding the huge loss in foreign currency can immediately take up the issue with India to accept other origin specially when similar or better quality of wheat is available at cheaper price.

The tender further requires the bidders to offer on C&F basis which also allows suppliers to make profit both on commodity and transportation freight.

Besides, the Food Ministry in the past on most of the cases had to be victims of such suppliers due to their manipulations in terms of non-compliance of shipment schedule and bringing longer vessels unable to enter Chittagong Port resulting extra lighterage.

Due to such non compliance of contractual terms, the landed cost of foodgrains ultimately proved to be higher than if it was procured on Free On Board (FOB) basis because in such FOB purchases the buyer always enjoys greater extent of control both on the commodity and the shipment.

As for example, the Food Ministry in 1983 conclude a contract and made the payment for 30,000 metric tons of wheat from Belgium on C&F basis. But the supplier never delivered the cargo to Bangladesh. After a lot of efforts and persuasion, the Food Ministry finally transhipped the cargo in another vessel from Antwerp port paying double loading and freight cost of Taka 9 crore in foreign exchange.

Some other instances may also be cited.

The recent cases are of MV Veri and M. V. China trident where the suppliers by gross violation of contractual terms transported the wheat in over-length vessels which could not enter Chittagong port.

Food Ministry Denial

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 13 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Attention to the government has been drawn to a news item published in the daily Bangladesh Times on March 11 alleging that the Bangladesh government

is going to suffer a loss in foreign exchange in purchase in cash of one lakh 20 thousand tons of wheat of a par particular origin and grade of the commodity, says an official announcement.

The Government wants to clarify the actual position to remove misgivings, if any, in the mind of the people in this regard.

The fact is that the Bangladesh government borrowed wheat from India under an agreement signed between the two countries in June 1982. According to this agreement Bangladesh Government is to repay wheat loan from the grade of "US grade No. 2 or better Hard Red Winter/Western White" to be delivered at Madras and/or Vishakhapatnam; and as such there is no option but to invite tender for supply of wheat from this single source, namely the USA.

Normally, open tenders are invited for supply of wheat from any source when it is meant for consumption in Bangladesh. In the presen case, Govt is bound by countract to repay the particular grade of wheat of the US origin as laid down in the Agreement.

Therefore the question of losing money in foreign exchange in the sahpe of alleged higher price and of freight does not arise. However, to consider reduction of expenses on freight, quotation have invited on both CUF and FOB basis for utilisation of the services of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation as a carrier.

CSO: 4600/1433

BANGLADESH

SAUDI PRINCE OPENS ISLAMIC BANKING SEMINAR

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal Al-Saud, Chairman of the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), said in Dhaka on Sunday that Bangladesh as one of the largest Muslim countries could be the centre of Islamic activities, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport on his arrival in Dhaka on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, Prince Mohammed hoped that the IAIB would be able to contribute its efforts for the promotion of economic activities in the country as well as prosperity of the people.

The Saudi Prince will preside over the three-day seminar on 'Islamic banking' beginning in Dhaka today (Monday) and inaugurate the 18th meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAIB. The seminar is being sponsored by IAIB.

Replying to a question, the Chairman of the IAIB said that Bangladesh was not a poor country rather it was a very rich country with vast human as well as natural resources. There might be cash short. But with serious efforts and good management and solidarity with the Muslim world Bangladesh could be turned into a developed country with the help of Allah.

He said Islamic system being the God gifted one was the most perfect system and it would naturally tend to do more welfare and well-being of people than any other systems.

Replying to another question Prince Mohammed said Islami banks within five years of their existence had already achieved considerable success and hoped that it would be able to contribute greatly to the development of Muslim world.

He said that the existing relationship between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh was "very well" and hoped that it would grow further in future.

Prince Mohammed who arrived in Dhaka by a special aircraft, was accompanied by his son Amar Bin Faisal.

He was received at the airport by the Chief of Protocol of Bangladesh Government Mr A K M Farooq Chairman of the Islami Bank Bangladesh, Mr Mohammed

Abdur Kazzaque Laskar and Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr Abdul Latif Abdullah Ibrahim Al Maimance.

EC IAIB Meet Held

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Islamic Banks was held in Dhaka on Sunday evening at Hotel Sonargoan.

Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal Al-Saud, Chairman of the Association, presided over the meeting.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Mr Nasef Tahoon, Chairman Hassan Social Bank of Egypt Mr Abdul Latif Janahi Managing Director, Bahrain Islamic Bank, Mr Taj El Serr, Managing Director Co-operatives Islamic Bank of Sudan and Dr Ahmed Al-Naggar Secretary General International Association of Islamic bank.

Reception

ENA adds: Mr. Abdul Latif Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Maimanee Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Prince Mohamed Al Faisal Al-Saud, Chairman of International Association of Islamic Banks.

CSO: 4600/1433

BANGLADESH

RATIFICATION OF NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY DEPOSITED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Moscow, Mar 12:--Bangladesh has reiterated her call for a general and complete disarmament and other measures to safeguard and strengthen the fragile structure of world peace reports BSS

Bangladesh ambassador to the USSR, Syed Najmuddin Hashim deposited Bangladesh's accession to a treaty and a convention of disarmament here yesterday and in his brief speech on the occasion, said that his country attached great importance to general and complete disarmament.

The treaty signed in Moscow in 1963 by the USA the USSR and the UK bans nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in the outer space and under water. The convention on the prohibition of the development production and stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction was signed in Moscow, Washington and London by the USSR the USA and the UK in 1972.

Ambassador Hashim said that those who were capable of waging a war must primarily shoulder the responsibility for keeping the peace.

The peace loving people of Bangladesh he said needed a milieu of peace to be able to develop their human and material resources to ensure for themselves a decent standard of living. They therefore, look to the Soviet Union and other signatories to the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) and biological warfare convention for subsequent tangible and effective measures for the promotion of world peace, he added.

Ambassador Hashim in his speech also referred to President Ershad's address to the second special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament in June 1982 where the Bangladesh President had expressed growing concern at the continuing escalation of arms race which threatened the very existence of human race.

The President had also proposed that since outer space was a common heritage of mankind it should be used for humanity at large.

President Ershad had also pressed for a decision to convene the Colombo conference on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace in conformity with General Assembly resolutions.

Receiving the instruments of accession on behalf of the USSR Government, Mr Y E Fokin Secretary General of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that depositing of Bangladesh's documents in Moscow, which played important role in negotiating the treaty and the convention was a fact of certain positive, significance for Soviet Bangladesh relations.

Bangladesh's instrument of accession were signed by Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury.

CSO: 5250/0006

BANGLADESH

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH NETHERLANDS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh will received Dutch financial and technical assistance worth Taka 86 crores during the current calendar year under an agreed minutes on development cooperation' signed between the two countries in Dhaka on Thursday.

The agreed minutes also envisages Taka 17.5 crores as balance of payment support to Bangladesh by the Netherlands.

The Dutch financial assistance is given in the form of partially untied grants.

The agreed minutes were signed following a three day annual bilateral consultations on development cooperation that ended on Thursday. Mr M. A. Syed Additional Secretary of External Resources Division of the Ministry of Finance led the Bangladesh delegation while The Netherland's Ambassador Mr. H J Du Marchie Sarvaas headed the Dutch side in the talks. The two delegations reviewed the progress of different on going projects and discussed about future cooperation. Dutch assistance in Bangladesh stresses on agricultural rural and industrial development. The land reclamation project in Noakhali, the delta development project in the south west of the country crop diversification poultry development, rural social services construction of godowns for food and fertilizers are the major programmes covered by Dutch Bangladesh cooperation in the field of industrial development natural gas and water transport sector Dutch assistance is sizable. The Netherlands is a co-financier in the second natural gas project of ADB.

The Netherlands with a 14 million population is one of the two countries in the world to spend 0.9 per cent of its GNP for foreign assistance. It ranks fifth among the bilateral donors to Bangladesh and Dhaka stands third after India and Indonesia in the list of recipients of Dutch assistance.

1 May 1985

BANGLADESH

EXCHANGE NOTE ON RICE PROCUREMENT SIGNED WITH JAPAN

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Mar 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh will receive a grant of 1.31 billion yen (about Taka 13 crore) from Japan for procurement of rice under an exchange note signed in Dhaka on Thursday between the two governments, reports BSS.

The grant, extended under food aid convention of [word illegible] popularly known Kennedy Round Programme to support the developing countries, will be utilised by the Food Ministry to purchase rice from Pakistan and Thailand.

The total Japanese food aid to Bangladesh since liberation has now amounted to Taka 553.1 crore.

Mr. Yasuhide Hayashi, Charge d'Affaires of Japan and Mr. M. Akhter Ali Joint Secretary, External Resources Division signed the note on behalf of their respective governments.

With Thursday's grant the total Japanese food aid to Bangladesh during the current Japanese financial year (April 1984 to March 1985) now stands at 3.47 billion yen (about Taka 35 crore) the current year's Japanese food aid will enable Dhaka to import 53,000 metric tons of rice, which is more than 8000 tons received from Tokyo the year before.

Japan, which became the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh has given a total grant assistance of Taka 1093 crore since liberation. Besides grant Japan has also extended about Taka 1638 crore as commodity loan and Taka 731 84 crore as project loan to Bangladesh since liberation.

Meanwhile, a high-powered annual consulting mission from Japan has just concluded its visit (March 8-12) to Dhaka to review and discuss the Japanese basic policy for future economic and technical assistance to Bangladesh.

CSO: 4600/1438

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT TROUBLES ON BORDER WITH INDIA

Corridor Sealed Off

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Nowazesh Hossain]

[Text]

RANGPUR, Feb. 26 : The entire 15 thousand inhabitants of the Bangladesh enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota have been thrown into virtual captivity and consequent distress with all essential facilities including that of transit denied to them by the Indian side in blatant violation of the accords between the two countries.

According to reports reaching the district headquarters the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has in reality sealed off the 'Tinbigha corridor' prohibiting all movement to and from the enclaves leading to a grave food crisis in the areas. The enclave people have also been allegedly warned not to move out of the enclaves and enter the adjacent Indian territory for essential marketing and medicare as agreed upon by the two countries.

The situation has deteriorated to such an extent the reports said, that schools in the enclaves have closed since teachers from the mainland Bangladesh cannot go there crossing the Tin-bigha corridor due to BSF resistance. The sick in the areas were now going without medicare and day labourers were

facing starvation as they could not move out in search of work.

Thirty one people from the enclaves were arrested by Indian police, tortured and sent to jail hajat for going to Mekligonj bazar for purchases a few days back, it was learnt.

It may be mentioned here that under an agreement signed between the District Administrations of Rangpur and Coochbihar of India in September 1981, the enclave people were allowed to go to Indian bordering markets for purchase and sale of goods and have medical aid. Subsequently the Tin Bigha corridor accord between the two countries was signed in October 1982 providing for transit facilities to and from the enclaves.

The enclave people, in the wake of gross violation of the accords by the Indian side, apprehend repetition of the 1963 violence in which large scale arson was let loose and the entire people of the enclaves were driven out by the Indians, aided by BSF.

1 May 1985

Escapee Talks to TIMES

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Rangpur, March 13: The Border Security Force of India and its armed nationals have strengthened their month-long blockade around two Bangladesh enclaves of Angorpota and Dahagram.

The 10,000 people residing in these enclaves, separated from the mainland by an acre of Indian land, face starvation, serious medical hazards and high unemployment.

Neither they can shop in nearby Indian market place, which they had been doing traditionally over the decades, nor they can go to the mainland for employment and medical treatment for strong blockade.

Meanwhile the 31 enclave people who went to Mekliganj weeks ago for daily shopping, are still in Indian security custody.

As suffering near crescendo, desperate enclave people made abortive attempts to flee their homes BSF and the armed Indian national pushed them back.

But at least one Abdur Razzaque who narrated the harrowing tale of suppression to The Times, was able to escaped narrowly.

Abdur Razzaque said that Bangladeshis who had gone to Mekliganj and picked up by Indian BSF men were tortured in custody.

Under an agreement with India ratified by Bangladesh, the citizens of these enclaves would have free access to mainland over the 'Tin Bigha' corridor which is to be leased to Bangladesh. In exchange for this agreement, Bangladesh had withdrawn its rights from Beruberi a decade and a half back.

According to official sources, here, all efforts for border talks between officials Couch Bihar of India and those of (Kalmonirhat) in Bangladesh for release of 31 Bangladeshis have failed so far.

CSO: 4600/1437

BANGLADESH

ISLAMIC BANKING LEADER TELLS INTEREST IN BANGLADESH

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Prince Mohamad Al Faisal-Al Saud, chairman of the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), said here yesterday that the Islamic banks were interested in investment in Bangladesh in the productive sectors which will also create new employment opportunities.

In an exclusive interview with BSS, the Saudi financial expert said that the development potentials in Bangladesh were very wide and added almost all sectors were open for investment.

He said that the Dar Al-Mai Al-Islami, one of the biggest public holding companies of Saudi Arabia, would open an investment corporation and a 'takafur' insurance company in Bangladesh. The process is under way and it is a matter of time only, he added.

But, Prince Mohamad said "no outside efforts can really help unless the people help themselves and unity, solidarity and [words illegible] factors for this'.

He said basically the main factor is the people. People must take the advantage of the new ideas, and influx of capital. Certainly there must be cooperation from the outside, but people here will have to take the initiative themselves.

Replying to a question on the prospect of Islamic banks for the Ummah, the Prince said that the Islamic system could solve the problems of the Ummah greatly and help remove the economic disparity among the Muslim countries.

Replying to another question if there was any pressure from the conventional banking system on the growth of Islamic banks, Prince Mohamed replied in the affirmative but added, "we take that as competition'.

Regarding the outcome of the seminar on Islamic banking, the Saudi Prince termed it as successful and added that it had provided the executives and governors of different Islamic banks with an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences for facing the common problems in the way of widening and promotion of their activities.

He also termed his visit to Bangladesh as "very successful and beyond expectation".

"We must repeat the visit. We are thankful to the people and the government of Bangladesh and hope to reciprocate the brotherly, generous and impressive attitudes shown to them," he said.

CSO: 4600/1436

1 May 1985

BANGLADESH

TIMES INTERVIEWS PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION LEADER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Mar 85 pp 1,8

[Text] Leader of the visiting Chinese friendship delegation, Mr. Wan Guoquan has said he was impressed by the immense fund of love which exists in Bangladesh for his country. He described Bangladeshis as 'brave and active people' and said he was certain that Bangladesh will make greater progress shortly.

Mr. Wan referred to the meeting of his delegation with President H. M. Ershad and said they felt honoured and pleased at the cordiality shown by the President.

The leader of the five member Chinese delegation was giving his impressions about their 12-day visit to Bangladesh in an interview with the Bangladesh Times. He said "Bangladesh and China are old friends and will continue to remain good friends." He suggested more frequent exchanges of good will missions, intellectuals and others between the two countries for yet better understanding of each others' positions.

Mr. Wan Guoquan as Vice Chairman of China National Democratic Construction Association, a democratic political party, is a senior politician of his country. The China National Democratic Construction Association is one of the eight political parties which forms the united front with the Communist Party of China to run the country.

Mr. Wan is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC). He is also a council member of the Chinese Association for International Understanding. As a leading economist of his country Mr. Wan is also a director of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation.

Magic Wand

Mr Wan's China National Democratic Construction Association 'party' as a partner of the united front works in close collaboration with the Chinese Communist Party. These eight small parties co-operated with the Communist Party during the long and arduous Chinese liberation struggle. Their members are associated with all phases of party and administrative organisations including the People's Congress in China. Explaining the nature of co-operation between the united front partners Mr Wan said that late leaders Chairman Mao Zedong and Prime

Minister Chou En-lai gave concrete shape to the unity. He said the Chinese Communist Party 'values the unity as a solid magic wand'. He said with close liaison with the Communist party the small components of the front are contributing immensely to the socialist reconstruction and the four modernisation policy of the People's China.

Mr. Wan said his party has 27,000 members and they are mostly professional intellectuals like economists. He said "our party members are more involved in economic activities and we do not have members among the workers, peasants or the PLA."

CDNCA

The China Democratic National Construction Association (CDNCA) is led by Mr. Hu Chuey Wen. He is now 90 years old and a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Political Consultative Congress, the parliament of China, Mr. Hu was a prominent industrialist and the head Shanghai Municipal Government when the Japanese invaded China in the thirties.

He made significant contributions in the anti-Japanese resistance War in close co-operation with the Communist Party. When Shanghai fell to the Japanese aggressors he organised and encouraged about 100 other industrialists to move out to the liberated areas. Many members of the CDNCA had been ministers in the central and provincial governments since liberation. In the present People's Congress the party has 30 members elected by the people. The present chief of the Teng Ching city administration is a member of this party.

The CDNCA on its own organises and sets up schools in the comparatively backward national minority areas. For this the party members do not take any salary from the state. The party maintains them out of its own funds.

Equal Responsibility

"The Chinese Communist party", Mr. Wan said, "as a matter of general principle consolidates the unity of all people and our job is to follow it and implement the programmes". Mr. Wan said before taking decisions the Communist Party discusses the matter with the aligned parties and "we even point out mistakes, if any in the programme." He said the members of the smaller parties equipped theoretical knowledge and expertise have contributed vastly to the Chinese progress and their participation are well recognised and appreciated in the country.

He said late Chairman Mao always emphasised on sharing of knowledge through mutual exchanges and unity of the parties. He said, "with the Communist Party we are one in success and in adversity". He said, "we share the honour and dignity with the people and we also take equal responsibility if something goes wrong."

Mr. Wan Guoquan said during the heady days of the Cultural Revolution in the late sixties and early seventies his party also suffered like others components of the united front in China. He said the "red guards threw many of us

out during the Cultural Revolution but we retrieved our positions later and started functioning as before after the third plenary session of the People's Congress."

Hegemonism

Assisted by the deputy leader of the friendship delegation Madam Chou Shichin and elegant looking interpreter Ms. Zeng Guilan who speaks fluent Bangla' Mr. Wan also elaborated Chinese policies particularly on Afghanistan and Kampuchea issues and on Beijing-Moscow relationship during the hour long interview. He said the Chinese policies are "clear and explicit". He said, "we are opposed to hegemonism in all varieties and manifestation and we always support the cause of the weaker nation under threat from a stronger one."

Mr. Wan said China wanted to improve relations with the Soviet Union. But, he went on, until there were just solutions of Afghanistan and Kampuchean problems and until the huge deployment of Soviet troops on our borders are withdrawn, a better relationship with Moscow was not possible.

Sino-Soviet Ties

The Chinese Friendship delegation leader said, "Soviet troops from Afghanistan must go and so are the Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and the people of these two countries must be allowed to live freely and assert their own rights." He pointed out that withdrawing of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the Vietnamese from Kampuchea are the first and foremost conditions for political solutions to these two problems. Replying to a question he said China was ready to discuss with Vietnam to normalise relations if its troops are withdrawn from Kampuchea.

Referring to the current situation in Kampuchea Mr. Wan said that if the Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Khieu Sampan and Mr. Son Sann would consolidate their tripartite unity and broaden its base victory would be of the Kampuchean people. He also reiterated that the government and people of China would continue to support the just struggle of the Kampuchean people.

He said that Chinese honoured the independent and neutral position of Kampuchea.

CSO: 4600/1433

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT ON, DISCUSS FALL IN GANGES FLOW

Water Diverted to Calcutta

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Matiur Rahman]

[Text]

Bangladesh being the lower riparian of the common international river--the Ganges--has been deprived of its due and legitimate share of the waters because of heavy unilateral withdrawal by India at the upper reaches.

Since India commissioned the controversial Farakka Barrage, though on trial in 1975, the natural and normal flow of the Ganges has been diverted through the feeder canal in West Bengal for flushing the Calcutta port causing serious adverse effect on the Bangladesh economy.

The natural and normal flow of about 60,000 to 70,000 cusecs of water during the pre-commission days now has come down to all-time low--about 30,000 cusecs.

According to reports, the low water level at the Hardinge Bridge point, below the Farakka barrage, during the current dry season has posed serious threats to local industrial plants like the Bheramara power station, North Bengal Paper Mill at Paksey besides navigation and large-scale irrigation in the GK Project area.

It may be mentioned here that as many as eight districts of Bangladesh are heavily depen-

ded on the Ganges waters for farming particularly during the lean period that began from January 1 last.

With the expiry of the memorandum of understanding on May 31 last year, India started the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters without entering into any agreement from the beginning of the current lean period.

The 18-month old memorandum was signed at the Indo-Bangladesh summit between General Ershad and late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1982 with the hope that the two countries would find out long-term solution to the sharing of waters of the Ganges.

Bangladesh immediately after the expiry of the agreement sought India for waters sharing and repeatedly asked Delhi for political level talks after the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) had referred back the issue to their respective government rejecting the two proposals--constructing storage dams in Nepal and digging link canal through Bangladesh for augmenting the Ganges flow.

All the Bangladesh requests

including the latest one sent three weeks ago went unheeded as India has not yet replied positively on the issue.

Before the fall of the lean period, the one-day ministerial level meeting of the JRC in Delhi on December 15, 1984 discussed briefly the Ganges waters issues outside the commission's purview but in vain.

It may be mentioned here that the Ershad-Indira summit during which the memorandum of understanding was signed, had assigned the JRC afresh to carry pre-feasibility studies for augmenting the Ganges flows for sharing by the two neighbours. The JRC had earlier futile exercises on the Farakka issue since it came into being in 1972.

Though the vital decision is to be taken at the political level, there is as such no move by India for resolving the Ganges issue that involves economic viability of one third of Bangladesh.

With the fall of the Ganges water, the under-ground water level too in the adjoining districts of the Ganges also started going down to an alarming low.

Opportunity for Rajiv

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Mar 85 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

Twenty-seven joint sessions of the Joint River Commission (JRC), divided evenly between Dhaka and Delhi and three successive agreements, in 1975, 1977, 1982, on the Ganges water sharing seem to have done only one thing: increasing shrinkage of the flow down-stream, falling water levels of the whole net-work of rivers in the Gangetic delta of Bangladesh, rapid siltation, serious disruption of navigation, irrigation, fishery, mass transportation and ecology. Nearly a whole north-western third of Bangladesh is so affected. And the devastating effects of the short-fall in water-supply appear most menacingly during the lean period from October to April. This year the situation has already assumed crisis proportions with the lurking uncertainty created by the JRC failure to work out a long-term agreement by April 1984 under a proposal to do so at the 26th session of it. Neither has there been anything toward a short-term quantum of distributable water for the lean period. Such a blank has occurred for the first time in thirteen years.

But this need not have happened in this way, if it were left to normalcy and nature—and the expectations raised by the turn of circumstances around the year 1971. Emergence of Bangladesh in which India had an involved role could not be reconciled to difficulties being created by such a neighbour of a nature that could be regarded as unfriendly and unneighbourly. In fact, well into the seventies the flow was normal till the time (1975) when a water-agreement had to be signed at the heads of state level in New Delhi. Ever since, the flow has gone on slimming despite meetings and talks.

It need hardly be added that nature's lay-out, the two Himalayan rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Ganges, rising within eighty miles of each other, cover the entire hydrological net-work of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. And they have flowed over the whole region for centuries with Bangladesh being the natural deltaic outlet for both river systems. But a little after Bangladesh became independent technology plus something put the most massive ever barrage across not only to contain the natural flow of the natural water-courses but also to hinder the flow of the good will that must as naturally have flowed between two neighbours. Bangladesh for herself is not aware of anything she has done to deserve such a treatment. Instead, she has still been wondering why a much bigger neighbour like India which shares with her a turbulent episode of history, should wax so unreasonable and begin to disregard even the common norms of nature and human re-

iations and good neighbourliness. It is relevant in this context to refer to the peaceful sharing of the Indus river waters between India and then West Pakistan under an agreement signed by Pandit Nehru and Ayub Khan. How should it have been different with what is now Bangladesh?

Some tend to suggest that the waters of the Ganges have been polluted by politics. We find it hard to accept such cynicism—although the signs and symptoms at times tend to force one to. Even so, India could not let politics get the better of its economy. There are expert views on record that the Farakka barrage has not been an unmixed blessing for India,—and there had been warnings from experts that it could not be. As we have said, denied the water, Bangladesh's economy suffers a severe blow. But India should also have reason to rethink the negatives along with the apparent positives of the barrage,—and the navigational facilities of the Hoogly river may lose force as a lone argument in favour of a giant project like Farakka.

Nonetheless, the question can be addressed from an angle different from that from which it has been in the past : There is a change in the Indian leadership. Rajiv Gandhi has not accepted in toto all the legacies he has received from the past. His bold and rigorous reforms pushed through within months of his take-over illustrate that he can be really strong and 'clean' in setting things right internally. He can be as strong and original—and clean in dealing with his neighbours—small, poor and essentially good neighbours. And, so motivated and emulating more his grand father Mr. Nehru he has to address these 'bilateral' and neighbourly problems in the region as those of topmost urgency. Both personally, humanly and naturally this seems that important. Internationalisation of the issue or similar things should be unnecessary where a simple gesture might do. In fact, since the initiative now lies with India it is more a question of unilateral rather than bilateral decision. This is basic. Without this being provided the Teesta session scheduled for March 10 might go the way the Ganges ones had.

With the barrage there as impregnable as ever let good will break through it and flow across with an assurance of an equitable share of the waters. More dams upstream, for instance, by India together with the existing ones would mark a process that will only widen the margin of deprivation for Bangladesh and of persistence in a process of wrong-doing to a neighbour that means no wrong.

Construction of reservoirs in the mountain gorges of Nepal which Nepal welcomes as a mark of unstinted cooperation between the neighbours is a feasible answer. This or any other ways of ending the dispute should come without further exercises in futile meetings without results. But precious little is likely to come off without the leverage of good will from the Indian leadership trying to think and act a little boldly, greatly—and humanly.

INDIA

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTED TO IGNORE OWN R&D

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 85 p 6

[Text]

A highly sophisticated navigation system for armoured vehicles, developed indigenously, has been put into cold storage and the Defence Ministry has suddenly decided to call foreign suppliers for trials of similar equipment, reports UNI.

The Gyro Land Navigation System (GLNS), which consists of a gyro compass, a computer and read-outs for the crew, was jointly developed by the Research and Development organisation of the Ministry of Defence and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

According to defence experts, the cost of a comparable system as offered by foreign suppliers was at least twice that of the Indian system. The Government's decision would be a "severe blow to our own development system", they contend.

The navigation system was developed over a span of three years by a young and dedicated Indian team.

According to HAL sources, the Indian system does not suffer from any drawbacks. They say their equipment has time and again demonstrated its capability. In this case, the experts had achieved complete accuracy, well up to the qualitative requirement (QR) set by the Indian Army. The system, now fully developed had been subjected to extensive acceptance trials in 1981-82.

"This is not to say that we must blindly opt for an equipment only because it has been developed indigenously as this will adversely affect the operational performance of our fighting forces", the experts say. "But where an equipment holds its own on both technical and financial grounds it must be encouraged, because from its present state will emerge improvements and that is what technological development is all about".

About a year ago, HAL received what amounted to a letter of intent from the Defence Ministry. But repeated enquiries for funding commencement of production were met with vague replies. Then all of a sudden the Ministry decided to call foreign suppliers for trials, a process that would result in a delay of about two years, the sources said.

They said that they might be ultimately asked to commence production two years hence. But by then prices would have risen, production planning stand outdated and the concerned personnel may have been employed elsewhere.

The sources said this ran contrary to the encouragement Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was giving to the Indian industry to achieve a quantum jump in attaining self-sufficiency in high technology fields.

CSO: 4600/1418

INDIA

FOREIGN SECRETARY SPEAKS ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11--The Foreign Secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, today decried the reluctance of rich countries to initiate, in cooperation with the developing nations concerted action to correct the imbalances in the world economy, reports PTI.

Though the world was interdependent, the developed countries were unwilling to recognize this fact, he said inaugurating a workshop on "South-South Cooperation: Role of Indian Business" organized by FICCI.

Mr Bhandari said the movement for South-South Cooperation had come of age and what was needed now was realistic programmes to get concrete results.

Mr Bhandari said the developing countries should devise action-oriented programmes. Mere convening of meetings and passing resolutions was not the pragmatic solution to the problem, he added.

he warned that food would become a serious problem by the turn of the century. The developing countries could cooperate fruitfully in this area as they had the potential and knowhow to increase food production, he said.

Mr Bhandari stressed the need for stepping up cooperation in science and technology among the developing countries. This would help in avoiding indiscriminate import of this knowhow from the rich, he added.

The Foreign Secretary noted that a major hurdle in South-South cooperation was sharing and dissemination of information on each other's capabilities. India should have its own programme and organization to fill the gap, he suggested.

In his valedictory address, Mr Abid Hussain, member of the Planning Commission, emphasized the need for achieving alround excellence in products and services to match those of developed countries.

For this to come about, there should be competition among the developing countries, eh added.

Mr Hussain appealed to the Indian businessmen not to have "balance sheet approach" to development.

Earlier Professor A. M. Khusro, former Planning Commission member, said businessmen should not depend on the Government to do everything.

The Commerce Secretary, Mr Prem Kumar, said the current world situation was more conducive to mutual trade among developing countries, Indian entrepreneurs' relationship with other developing countries should be one of partnership and not exploitative in nature.

CSO: 4600/1420

1 May 1985

INDIA

GORBACHEV NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE POLICY ON INDIA

Madra THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11--The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will head the Indian delegation that will be flying to Moscow to attend the funeral of the Soviet President, Konstantin Chernenko, who died yesterday after a spell of only 13 months in his dual role as head of the party and the Government.

The Government of India will be observing State mourning from tomorrow til Wednesday afternoon, the day of the funeral.

The President, Mr. Zail Singh, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, have sent condolence messages to the Soviet leadership on behalf of the Government and people of India mourning the death of Chernenko. They will be calling at the Soviet embassy in Delhi tomorrow to sign the condolence register and personally convey their deep sorrow to the Soviet Government.

The visit of the Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, who was due to leave for Moscow tomorrow, has been postponed for the present. The previous Defence Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, who was in Moscow on October 31 had to cut short his visit and fly back to India following Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The death of three Soviet Presidents--Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko--within a span of two years and four months has evidently influenced the decision to select a younger leader like Mr. Michael Gorbachev to succeed Chernenko as the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, so that he could look forward to a long spell of office which provides for both stability and continuity in the Soviet system.

From India's point of view, there will be no difference in the Soviet policy of friendship and cooperation with it, no matter who is at the helm in the Kremlin. Through Andropov and Chernenko had no personal contact with the Indian leaders before they emerged at the top of the Soviet power structure, the two leaders like their predecessor, Brezhnev adhered to the established policy of close friendship with India.

So there is not likely to be any change in the Soviet attitude under the new dispensation. As Andropov and Chernenko went out of their way to confer with

Indira Gandhi for over an hour during her last visits to Moscow on the two sad occasions, Mr. Gorbachev and his younger colleagues are bound to show the same special consideration when Mr. Rajiv Gandji meets them.

The last of the Soviet old guard like the present Prime Minister, Mr. Nikolai Tikhanov, the first Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, and the Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, who have had closer associations with India, will be there in the new Soviet Government. But India expects the new Kremlin group headed by Mr. Gorbachev to display greater flexibility in the conduct of Soviet foreign policy.

The Government is considering a suggestion to adjourn the two Houses of Parliament on Wednesday as a mark of respect to the memory of the Soviet leader following past precedents.

CSO: 4600/1421

INDIA

REPORTER INTERVIEWS AKALI DAL PRESIDENT LONGOWAL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Akali Dal president Harchand Singh Longowal on Tuesday ruled out talks with the Centre unless the Anandpur Sahib resolution was accepted and all those detained after Operation Bluestar were released.

Mr Longowal, was one amongst the many leaders released on Tuesday. He was detained in the Rajasthan State Electricity Board guest house in Udaipur and was brought to the Capital by a special plane on Tuesday afternoon.

In a brief interview with this reporter, Mr Longowal, looking relaxed and cool, said that he would first visit the Golden Temple on Wednesday morning and then decide the strategy of the Akali Dal as to how to restore normalcy in the State.

Earlier, his habeas corpus and petition challenging the amended National Security Act was dismissed as infructuous by the Supreme Court. "I would have got the release from the court but the Government released me of its own to save itself from that embarrassment", he said.

During the nine-month detention, he says, he was kept in darkness about the happenings in the country and particularly in Punjab. "I was kept in a room measuring 10 feet by 10 feet with heavy security bandobust around. There was no regular supply of newspapers and a radio was also denied to him--How do I know about the happenings outside?", he asked.

Proposals: What proposals he has for arriving at a peaceful and acceptable solution of the Punjab problem? The problem, he said could be sorted out only if the Government agree to release several thousand Akali activists, including members of the Sikh Students Federation along with senior leaders such as Mr Parkash Singh Badal and Mr G S Tohra whom he describes as "honest and sincere" leaders. The Akali Dal has and had been demanding the acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib resolution since Master Tara Singh's days. But nothing was done.

Also, the Dal had also been demanding a high level enquiry, preferably by a judge of the Supreme Court to probe into the increasing extremism in the State, but the inquiry was "intentionally" evaded for it might cause great embarrassment to the Government, he said.

Does he feel that such an inquiry would be ordered now? To this he says how can "we believe the Government". The Government should first order an inquiry into the recent carnage in which several hundred persons were killed, property worth crores damaged or destroyed and several thousand innocents were rendered homeless. The Government should also pay adequate compensation to their victims.

Priests' role: Sikhs always stood for national unity and integrity and even joined Mahatma Gandhi in his struggle for communal harmony. "How can they be described as anti-national or against any community--We are all brothers", he said.

On the Sikh high priests, Mr Longowal says the high priests are the pillars and backbone of Sikhism and always guided the masses in the absence of leadership as was done in the recent past when all the leaders were sent behind the bars. "Their role was highly commendable".

Delhi Akali Dal leader Bakshi Jagdev Singh has also welcomed the release of the leaders.

CSO: 4600/1422

1 May 1985

INDIA

CPI-M ISSUES STATEMENT AFTER 8-9 MAR POLITBURO MEETING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11--The politburo of the CPI (M), which met here on March 8 and 9, expressed its happiness over the defeat of the Congress (I) in the Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, and Sikkim and also over the rejection by the people of the Prime Minister's appeal for Congress monopoly of power at the Centre and in the States, an appeal which was in line with the "authoritarian" outlook of the ruling party.

The politburo statement said the election results showed that people were recovering from the shock following the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Having expressed their concern for national unity in the Lok Sabha poll and voted for the Congress (I) they were now ready to make their choice on the basis of the performance and promises of the ruling party at the Centre. This made all the differences between the December and March elections.

The CPI (M) general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, said the disunity among the Left parties inevitably led to the polarization of the electorate between the ruling and Opposition parties.

At the meeting of the politburo, the rival CPI was severely criticized by the Marxist leadership for its "insensate electoral ambitions" which, it was alleged, destroyed all chances of Left unity. For instance, it was pointed out, in Bihar the CPI stand and tactics undermined Opposition unity and also unity with the CPI (M) State unit. The CPI tactics only split the Opposition vote, harmed the advance of the Left forces and reduced Left representation in the State Assemblies, the CPI (M) politburo said.

The CPI (M) politburo felt there had been further deterioration in the situation in Punjab despite the repeated assurances of the Prime Minister to settle the problem. The Akali leaders' inability to take a firm stand against the secessionist, their endorsement of the Anandpur Sahib resolution and their readiness to organize the defence of hijackers in Pakistan must cause deep concern to all.

CSO: 4600/1420

INDIA

EXPECTATIONS FROM PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENTS TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 10--The proposed resumption of the Indo-Pakistan dialogue is being delayed by the inordinately long time that Gen. Zia-ul-Haq is talking in completing the electoral process in Pakistan and forming his new government.

The new Pakistan Cabinet, if it can be called as such, is expected to be inducted into office with the appointment of a Prime Minister only in the third week of this month, before the new National Assembly meets on March 23 for its first session.

So it is unlikely now that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, Mr. Romesh Bhandari and Mr. Niaz Naik, will be able to meet before the end of this month, as intended earlier, because of this delay in the formation of the new Cabinet in Pakistan.

Though for all practical purpose Gen. Zia will continue to be the real boss in his dual capacity as an "elected President and self-appointed head of the martial law regime, he is evidently keen on these cosmetic changes in the political complexion of his regime to provide some semblance of a representative character to his government. It is for this reason that he has not been in any great hurry to resume the dialogue with India before completing this process in Pakistan.

The current expectation, therefore, is that the stalled dialogue on no-war pact and other interrelated issues of normalisation is likely to take place towards the end of April, although the two Foreign Secretaries will have an opportunity to meet during the ministerial meeting of the coordination bureau of the non-aligned nations due to be held from April 16 to 19 in Delhi. They will be meeting again in early May when Mr. Naik passes through Delhi on his way to Bhutan for the Foreign Ministers' meeting on South Asian regional cooperation.

The Government of India is waiting for more tangible evidence of the Pakistani desire for a resumption of this dialogue before determining the nature of its

own response to the new overtures for better relations. It has been noted with some satisfaction that there has lately been a decrease in the degree of Pakistani involvement in the Punjab situation.

At the same time Gen. Zia has started accusing India of secretly training Al-Zulfiqar terrorists as though to justify the clandestine support Pakistan has been extending to the Sikh extremists in their violent campaign to propagate Khalistan.

But there has also been a marked slow-down to the point of virtual suspension of the virulent anti-Indian campaign in the Pakistan press and over radio and television, which was worked up to a hysterical pitch in the wake of the Punjab crisis last year.

The Government of India is also waiting to see what sort of charge-sheet the Pakistan authorities are going to file against the hijackers who are being placed on trial at long last, whether the protagonists of Khalistan operating from abroad would be permitted to transform this into a replica of the I.N.A. trial in 1945 to propagate the right of the so-called subject people to rise in "revolt" to free themselves from subjugation.

It is known in Delhi that the U.S. has been urging the Zia regime to give up its unfriendly attitude towards India and strive for better understanding in its own interest. Consequently, there has been a noticeable change in recent weeks in Pakistan's postures, followed by renewed overtures for a resumption of the no-war dialogue soon.

The U.S. Under Secretary of State for political affairs, Mr. Michael Armacost, will be visiting Islamabad and Delhi in the course of the next few days for talks on both regional and bilateral issues. The Government of India would be interested in his assessment of the current thinking in Islamabad on Indo-Pakistan relations, how far the Zia regime would be prepared to go in shedding its animosities and striving for a better accord in a genuine spirit of mutually beneficial bilateralism.

Reel initiative: The real initiative for an Indo-Pakistan rapprochement must come from Washington, since there is very little that Delhi or Islamabad can do on their own to reverse the current confrontationist trends, so long as the U.S. continues to pursue the policy of intensifying an arms race in the sub-continent. An essential first step towards any improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations has to be a clear and unequivocal commitment by the U.S. not to supply any more arms to Pakistan beyond what, has already been given that can meet its legitimate defence requirements.

CSO: 4600/1417

IRAN

KHAMENE'I: WE WILL ERADICATE ALL ROOTS OF CORRUPTION IN KORDESTAN

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 28 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Tehran—ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday at a meeting with a group of Kurdish Muslim warriors, the President of the Republic said: Through the grace of God, and by your hands, we will uproot all corruption in Kordestan.

During this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haydar, the Imam's representative in the revolutionary guard of Kordestan, gave a short report. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam va-ol-Moslemin Khamene'i addressed himself in a speech to the warriors of Kordestan. He said: You Kurdish brothers have hit world imperialism so hard that their heads are still spinning; it is still too early for us to be able to assess the importance of these blows.

It will not be long before it will become clear to the world, with the victories of the Muslim nation of Iran, how the fists of the people of Kordestan have answered world imperialism's greed and nonsense.

The President of the Republic then discussed the nature of world imperialism's relationship with counterrevolutionary elements. He said: The counterrevolution and the mini-groups, who operate as the germs of imperialism, are like clever insects and germs that grow in fetid environments; they operate in environments where purity, brotherhood, and unity do not exist. World imperialism, led by America, has therefore tried from the beginning to eliminate the pure environment which the revolution created among the people.

The Islamic revolution united our slogans and brought our hearts close together. The tumult of the revolution brought down those walls separating the Iranian nation, and the people felt unified. It is clear that in the revolutionary environment the germs of imperialist plots have had no place to grow; imperialism had to eliminate the purity, kindness, and unity between the people. This is why they raised the issue of ethnic groups, and tried to disrupt the people's unity by using the Kurds, the people of Fars, the Turks, the Arabs, the Lors, the Baluchis, and the Torkomans, or else the issue of Sunnis and Shi'ites. If they had been successful, they would not have stopped with the issue of Shi'ites and Sunnis; they would have raised disunifying issues even within these large groups, such as the matter of the differences between the Shafi'is and the Hanafis among the Sunnis, or the matter of the differences between those among the Shi'ites who follow various theological exemplars. The goal of these activities was to disrupt the people's unity and create a feeling of disunity in the nation in the interest of world imperialism, and unfortunately a number of people fell into these traps.

The Chief of the Supreme Defense Council then said: In the years 1359 and 1360 [21 March 1980 – 20 March 1982] when I came to Kordestan I heard myself that there were people in the counterrevolution who knew no Kurdish whatsoever and were not Kurds. They fought with the people on the orders of their masters. Early in the revolution, the Americans and their agents, the same ones who presented themselves as advocates of the Kurdish people in various guises, had the same goals, but they were foiled by the native Kurdish forces for Truth. These people showed that they are loyal to their country, their revolution, and to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was a great blow to the breast of the enemy. The counterrevolutionary groups, with various counterrevolutionary methods, claimed to be speaking the language of the Kurdish people and to be defending their rights, but the Kurdish people showed that they considered them outsiders.

The president then discussed what makes unity in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Through the grace of God, we have been able to solve the problem of Shi'ites and Sunnis in our country: we are all united with one intention under the same leader against a common enemy. There are no divisions among the officials of the Islamic republic in Sanandaj, Esfahan, Mehabad, Kamyaran, Mashhad, Tehran, and other cities. The government of the Islamic republic makes no distinction between Arabs, Lors, or Torkomans. They are all the foundation of our revolution, and we are indebted to all of them. Noting that the Islamic Republic of Iran will welcome the return of all deluded people and counterrevolutionaries, provided they sincerely repent, the president said:

Today many have realized that Satanic activities have no effect on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is affiliated with a divine power and is backed by the flowing power of the people. The mercenary counterrevolutionaries are so immersed in treason that they cannot save themselves, like those who are waiting in ambush in some areas to hurt innocent people. They cannot hope to have their lives perpetuated by world imperialism, because world imperialism will not take care of them. Historical experience and my personal observations have shown that the mini-groups and mercenaries who have committed treason against their land will never have dignity again and will always be disgraced and deprived.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is today the proudest nation in the world, and it can declare absolutely that it is not under the influence of East or West: this matter is always before us in our political and economic relations with the nations of the world. We will establish political and economic relations wherever the interests of our nation require it. Today, even the Western European governments are complaining about American interference in their affairs. If America makes a decision, many advanced industrialized European nations are forced to follow, but do not pay any attention to America or the Soviet Union in the slightest matter. In our foreign policy and in our international relations we act in the language of Islam, with inspiration from the Koran, and the example of the precious Prophet of Islam. We have fought for six years in the midst of fearsome storms, but after six years we are stronger, more firmly rooted, prouder, more exasperating to our enemies, and more pleasing to our friends. As an independent power, upon whom the East and the West can impose nothing, from whom no tolls can be exacted by America and the Soviet Union, will we pay tolls to the mini-groups, who must beg from the agents of world imperialism for the slightest thing?

Through the grace of God, by the hands of you dear combatants, and with the help of the nation of Iran, we will pull up all the roots of corruption in Kordestan. You youths must prepare yourselves for a peaceful and delightful future, so that you will be able to build your cities and villages and rebuild life anew. The president then warned educational officials and students about the counterrevolution among young people. Concerning the state of the counterrevolution in

Kordestan, he said: These traitors have taken it in the teeth everywhere. The fact that these mercenaries attack a village full of old women and men and kill them for the crime of ignoring their propaganda is nothing to be proud of: this is helplessness and impotence for the counterrevolution. Having exhausted their resources, they cling to the hope that they will be able to enter the pure heaven of the students, and school officials must watch for their influence.

9310

CSO: 4640-490

IRAN

VELAYATI: MARTYRDOM NECESSARY TO CONFRONT OCCUPIERS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 3 Mar 85 p 2

[Text] ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY — At a gathering of ambassadors and chargés d'affaires in Iran from Islamic countries yesterday morning, our country's foreign minister discussed Iran's position on recent changes in Lebanon and the withdrawal of occupying Zionist forces from that country.

With regard to this, Velayati said: We must make use of Islamic characteristics and the Muslim desire for martyrdom to confront occupying forces, and take steps toward a decisive solution to the problem of Israel, whose essence is Satanic and oppressive; it is natural that we must not stop at the frontiers of Lebanon. He said: The combative Muslim people of Lebanon, the Palestinian combatants, and the Muslims of occupied and Syrian lands have been singled out without help as the targets of this terrorism from usurper Israel; they are therefore in need of Islamic and Arab motivation. After occupying Lebanon, Israel has withdrawn in three phases, from the Hawmah Heights of Beirut, from Shuf and 'Alieh of Beirut, and finally from Sidon and the 'Alayh

The first and second withdrawals were done in self-interest — out of fear of creating popular and Islamic resistance — with the granting of a concession and finally for the purpose of creating and intensifying domestic and ethnic conflicts.

The withdrawal, or flight, from Sidon, on the other hand, was done because of Islamic resistance and a resultant increase in Israeli casualties. There were not many days when the Israelis did not suffer several casualties, and this had an extraordinary negative effect on the fabric of Israeli society, because of the suicidal operations against the Israeli intelligence center in Syria, the American Marine base, and French paratroopers in Beirut, or the operations that took place every day throughout the occupation.

The Foreign Minister then discussed Israel's fear of the growth of Islamic opposition and the martyr-seeking Muslims of Lebanon, as well as the fear of America and Western countries supporting Israel. He said: The aggregate of resistance and anti-Zionist measures have shown that the element of resistance has grown in other parts of occupied Lebanon and in all occupied territory, especially in West Karaneh, and it appears that it will be a decisive factor for solving the Palestinian question. This is one of the reasons for Israel's fear, and this self-centered regime's crazed reactions; this fear of Islamic resistance has even taken hold of America and other Western countries supporting Israel, because they have supported these Israeli crimes with their silence.

Islamic resistance ripened and grew at a time when arms had been laid down by those claiming to fight Israel, and the Arab and Islamic world was deluded by this Western belief. The idea that the Palestinian question can be solved through negotiations while maintaining the existence of Israel is based on the belief that compromising solutions and a race to compromise with Israel had appeared in the Arab world, and most of them had turned to political solutions.

It was under these conditions that the Islamic resistance of Lebanon invalidated these solutions, and showed those who had accepted the shameful Camp David Accords and other similar solutions that the only way to confront Israeli aggression and attain the legitimate rights of a nation is armed and Islamic struggle. The solution to the Palestinian problem and to the attainment of the lawful rights of the deprived Palestinian people is therefore this same tested method and practical victory.

First of all, they consider this way of dealing with the issue impossible to accept along with the existence of a country called Israel.

Secondly, the resistance believes in fighting and confronting all Zionism in the world, and its weapons are the desire for martyrdom and the sacrifice of life.

Dr Velayati then discussed the results of the regime occupying Jerusalem's defeat in Lebanon, and the terror that it showed in trying to make up for this defeat. He then said:

The world of Islam and the Arab world are going through difficult days and sensitive moments. We need a comprehensive and all-encompassing movement. Just as we have always declared our readiness to liberate dear Jerusalem and to confront usurper Israel, we now vigorously condemn these savage acts of Israel in southern Lebanon; we consider the silence of America and the other Western countries to be in support of these acts. We call upon the world to open its mouth and condemn these acts, and to take a serious step to prevent them.

9310

CSO: 4640/490

IRAN

EFFECTS OF SOUTHERN LEBANON LIBERATION ON REGION EXAMINED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 6 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Only armed resistance in southern Lebanon caused Israel to withdraw from the Sidon area. This is something upon which all the people, political parties, and Lebanese political groups, with varying and conflicting leanings, agree.

The defeated Zionist army, after 22 months of occupying southern Lebanon, has been forced to flee Lebanon in order to reduce its casualties and costs. Could a classically organized army or movements whose leaders are embroiled in political intrigues have driven the occupiers out? The answer can only be found in an armed people's movement advancing on the basis of Islamic teachings. Despite the efforts of various groups and parties in the past to say that their members have participated in the resistance in southern Lebanon, the fact that the leadership of the movement, and the composition and organization of the revolutionary guerilla cells of the Muslims were never quite clear kept them from ever falling into the trap of political negotiations and the exchange of concessions.

In any case, now, after two and one-half years of struggle against the occupiers and their mercenaries, the efforts and the crusading of the Muslim people of southern Lebanon have borne fruit and the enemy has fled without achieving any of his objectives. Israel attacked Lebanon two and one-half years ago nominally to achieve security for the Galilee area and northern Occupied Palestine, but in reality it was pursuing three main goals:

First goal: To destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization and to eliminate the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon.

Second goal: To dominate Lebanese political affairs and install a pro-Israel government in Beirut.

Finally, the third goal was to sign a peace treaty with Lebanon as the second Arab country after Egypt and to permanently occupy the south of this country with the agreement of the Lebanese government and the utilization of the natural resources there.

During the first year of the invasion it appeared that the Zionist regime had succeeded in attaining its goals, because only three months after the occupation of Lebanon and the concentration of Zionist forces behind the gates of Beirut, Yasser Arafat and several thousand Palestinian guerillas left Beirut on the basis of Phillip Habib's promises and commitments and went to Greece on a ship. Before that, American, French, British, and Italian forces deployed on the coasts of Beirut. Under these circumstances, Bashir Gemayel, one of Israel's biggest supporters in Lebanon, was elected to the presidency by the Majlis under pressure and duress. He was soon assassinated.

however. After that, Israeli and Phalangist forces and those of Sa'd Haddad poured into West Beirut and committed unprecedented crimes with the killing of Palestinian refugees in Sabra and Chatila. Then the international forces, who had left Lebanon prior to this slaughter, again deployed on the coasts and two months later Amin Gemayel was elected President of Lebanon.

The year 1982, the first year of the invasion, was almost over, but Muslim revolutionaries began taking measures against the occupiers and killed more than 100 Zionists by blowing up the Israeli army command post in Sur. The year 1983 began, and Islamic resistance in Lebanon spread. In April the American imperialist embassy was blown up, leaving 63 Americans dead.

At this time, the Zionist regime, with America's help, was seeking to achieve its third goal, the signing of an agreement with Lebanon. Finally, on 18 May, with shuttling by Shultz, the American Secretary of State, this agreement, which was called Camp David Two, was signed in Khaldah Lebanon and al-Khalisah of occupied Palestine.

One month later, the Israelis, who considered themselves completely victorious, withdrew to the south from the areas north of the al-Awwali River, that is southern Beirut and the central mountains of Lebanon. This happiness for them, and for the Americans, Westerners, and finally for some political parties and Lebanese politicians did not last long. The Lebanese Muslims showed that they had made and sworn to a decision to expel the international forces and nullify the 17 May agreement.

With the explosion at the American marine compound and shortly thereafter at the French paratrooper compound, more than 241 Americans and 58 Frenchmen were killed. The dust from this had not yet settled when the Israeli forces command post in Sur was blown up again and a large number of Zionists were killed.

A new page was thus written in the book of Lebanese history, and the occupiers, who until that day had considered themselves at liberty to do as they pleased, were now forced to think of their future.

The year 1984 must be considered the year when the defeat of the international forces and Israel in tying up Lebanon became completely clear. The first two months of the year had not yet passed when the American soldiers fled Beirut and the French subsequently followed suit. In the third month the government of Lebanon under pressure from Lebanese Islamic and national forces and the activities of the Syrian government, abrogated the 17 May agreement and the first powerful slap in the face was delivered to America and Israel. It was now clear that they could not remain in Lebanon.

In the parliamentary elections for occupied Palestine, which were held after the installation of the new cabinet in Lebanon, the Labor Party won under the slogan "Get out of Lebanon."

Now, in 1985, the Zionist regime, hopeless and defeated, has decided to withdraw from Lebanon. The results of this war were much more costly for Israel than anticipated; more importantly, none of Israel's goals in invading Lebanon were permanently achieved.

First of all, the Palestine Liberation Organization was not only not eliminated, but new tendencies have emerged within it in opposition to Arafat's compromising line.

Secondly, the Zionist regime not only failed to install a pro-Israel government in Beirut, but in the new cabinet, a new ministry has been created which was initially called the Ministry of the South, and then renamed the Ministry of Resistance.

Finally, not only was the 17 May agreement nullified, and the leaning to Israel replaced by a leaning to Syria and progressive forces, but world opinion was also completely aroused against the occupation of Lebanon.

Apart from these three primary goals, none of which were achieved, even now Israeli army commanders and the Minister of War admit that they can no longer guarantee the complete security of the Galilee area.

The conditions which have now appeared will clearly have an effect on overall views of the area and domestic tendencies in various Middle Eastern countries. The first complaint against the Zionists, which came from within their own ranks, was that withdrawal operations took place on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, but clearly the withdrawal, or flight, from Lebanon will have deep effects on Israel's society and army. More important than this, however, Yasser Arafat, King Hussein, Hosni Mobarak, and others who were holding the reigns of Palestine and pulling this way and that will likely move more quickly in the face of the Muslim revolutionaries of Lebanon, because they understand well that the resistance in southern Lebanon is a great lesson for the current generation of Palestinians. The Muslim youth of Palestine will once again rise up in resistance in the manner of their brothers in Lebanon.

Despite this, one must be fully vigilant and aware. Israel still holds one-fifth of Lebanon's territory; current political developments in the area in the hands of reactionaries, especially the alliance between King Hussein and Arafat, and finally the alliances with America and the Soviets, and especially the forthcoming Vienna talks, all illustrate these new plots.

Muslim resistance in southern Lebanon, however, and the destruction of the Zionists will always keep the hope alive that a new era has been launched in developments in the area. Yesterday, Sidon was liberated. Tomorrow it will be all of southern Lebanon and then the spread of Islamic and people's struggles will be completely clear.

The Liberation of Sidon

The Muslim people of Sidon, the center of southern Lebanon, have celebrated the liberation of themselves and their city from the occupation of Zionists and mercenaries.

In the first stage of their flight from southern Lebanon, Israeli forces finally evacuated the city of Sidon, and moved their forces to points further south in the eastern region. Yet there is still a part of the Zionist army at part of the al-Awwali River in northern Sidon, which is especially watchful around the 'Ilman bridge. Finally, after two trucks were disabled on this bridge, they closed it for practical purposes.

On the other hand, the police and the gendarmes of Lebanon have gradually taken control of Sidon in order to gradually open the way for a final army occupation. It is necessary to mention that Lebanese army personnel were deployed north of the al-Awwali River about a month ago.

The first stage of the Zionist army's withdrawal, or, better, its flight, is scheduled to be completed late in the month of Bahmah [21 Jan - 19 Feb], and the occupiers will deploy in the **al-Biqa'** area and southern Lebanon to the Litani River. After that, the second stage will be implemented, when the **al-Biqa'** will be completely evacuated. Estimates are that the second stage will involve a three-to five-month occupation.

The Israeli occupying forces have now withdrawn from the city of Sidon. After that the mercenary forces, or what is known as the Army of Southern Lebanon, will also prefer flight to remaining, because they know that they can continue to survive only with Israeli protection. If this support disappears, the Muslim revolutionaries will descend upon the occupiers and try them in revolutionary trials for collaborating with Israel.

In this midst of this, a Zionist officer has admitted that a great many members of the Army of Southern Lebanon have left it. Antoine Lahad, commander of this army, will be obliged to remain only only the southern border area, the area once controlled by Sa'd Haddad prior to the invasion of Lebanon. In any case, although mercenary forces have confronted the heedless attacks of Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries every day, it is clear that from now on things will be much more difficult for them. In the first important step, in the first few minutes of an attack on a base held by Antoine Lahad's people in the little city of Ansar in the area, the Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries not only succeeded in dealing effective blows, but they captured twelve of them.

In any case, a comprehensive look makes it fully clear that the only reason for the flight of the Israelis and their mercenaries from Lebanon was the severe and persistent resistance of Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries.

The Zionist regime, which attacked Lebanon to eliminate the PLO, install a pro-Israel government there, and finally to permanently occupy the south of this country, never imagined that factors would develop that it had never anticipated, and that it would not only fail to achieve its goals, but would be forced to flee in disgrace. Recently the Israeli Minister of War, appearing before the Zionist regime's parliament, in order to persuade the deputies to give the government sufficient resources for the withdrawal, admitted: 90 percent of the operations against Israel in southern Lebanon are being carried out by Shi'ites. Our military invasion of Lebanon has become a war between the Shi'ites and Israel, the continuation of which is of absolutely no benefit to us."

Finally, we will cite a Tunisian newspaper article, which said to the Palestinians:

Resistance in southern Lebanon will prove itself to the Palestinians to be the only way to bring Israel to its knees, and any amount of this brought against Israeli forces by the Lebanese is better than a thousand Palestinian political maneuvers.

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CSO: 4640/505

IRAN

SOUTHERN LEBANON MUSLIMS ANNOUNCE GENERAL MOBILIZATION

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 9 Mar 85 p 20

[Text] Sidon—News Agencies—Reports are that Muslim combatants in the liberated area of Sidon are preparing operations against Israel, but the government army of Lebanon is standing in their way.

Following the flight of the Zionist army from the city of Sidon in southern Lebanon, in the last few days Muslims have punished many former Zionist collaborators with revolutionary execution.

After leaving Sidon, the Zionists are positioned nearby, and it is not a remote possibility that they will attack the city in an insane move.

A Call for General Mobilization

Nabih Birri chief of the Shi'ite Amal movement, called for a general mobilization against the Zionist army after Saturday's attacks by the Israeli army against four villages in southern Lebanon. According to Timur Guskell, spokesman for the United Nations, Israeli forces blocked the roads to the villages of Tura, Burj Rahhal, Bidyas and Yanuh all of which are centers of resistance under Amal leadership, and attacked these villages.

The Zionist regime, as usual, in order to justify its crimes, announced that these measures took place following guerilla activities against them.

Saturday, Nabih Birri said: Local schools will be closed until further notice, and students will submit their reports in accordance with a secret plan. He called upon the youth of southern Lebanon not to leave areas that are not yet under Israeli occupation. Last week the Zionist regime was forced to evacuate the Sidon area and took casualties in so doing.

According to REUTERS, quoting Lebanese security sources, Israeli forces detained inhabitants of surrounded villages for questioning. At Borj Rahhal and Tura there are now only a few residents present, and there is no information of the fate of the others.

Nabih Birri said: Israel is expelling Muslims from the area and sowing discord in order to justify the settlement of Christians along the northern border strip of Palestine. He said: Since Thursday, Israel has expelled 400 people to Beirut. He called upon all those who collaborate with

In Sidon the body of a man was found with a message on his chest from the Lebanese national resistance that read: This is the punishment of someone who sold his land and his honor to Israeli intelligence.

The United Nations Spokesman said: At seven in the morning on Saturday Israeli forces first attacked the Muslim villagers of Burj Rahhal and Tura with infantry and armor, and then directed their attack to villages adjacent to these two, Bidyas and Yanuh.

Method of Attacking Villages

In a descriptive report from the village of Burj Rahhal, which was attacked Saturday by occupying Zionist forces, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE wrote: On Saturday from the village square of 'Abbasiyah adjacent to the village of Burj Rahhal, residents watched Zionist operations. Above the village of Rahhal, two army helicopters were busy killing. A Young woman in a chador said happily:

This is the end for Israel. They must go. Meanwhile an Israeli soldier, pointing his weapon at the villagers, said: Entry into Burj Rahhal is prohibited; whoever enters the village will be killed.

The correspondent from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE added that Muslim revolutionaries had told him: The more the strikes increase, the more we will attack. Before the Israelis put their iron hands into their iron boxing gloves, we were carrying out two or three operations a day; now, however, last night alone we carried out 11 operations.

One of them said: In Qolabeh we used mortars against the Zionists, but we still haven't even begun.

Disrespect for Islamic Shrines

The British newspaper THE GUARDIAN reported Muslim attacks in southern Lebanon and the killing of an Israeli major and a warrant officer by explosions in Bazuriyah early last week. It wrote: Now that the Israelis have become severely frightened of Shi'ite attacks in southern Lebanon, they are trying to intensify their control and pressure over the Muslims with more harsh measures.

This newspaper then added: For example, last week Israeli troops again attacked the mountain city of Bazuriyah, near the city of Sur, released police dogs in the mosques and Muslim theaters of this city, and played loud music over the mosque loudspeakers.

This newspaper added: Israeli soldiers then tore pages from the (Glorious) Koran and looted the mosque collection boxes.

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CSO: 4640/506

IRAN

LEBANESE MUSLIM LEADER WARNS ABOUT DOLLAR BOYCOTT

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 9 Mar 85 p 20

[Text] Tehran—Central News Unit—‘Alameh Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah said today that the Lebanese clergy may soon be forced to issue a religious decree that forbids dealing in American dollars.

According to the Central News Unit, Sheikh Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah, a Muslim leader in Lebanon, said in connection with the increased price of the dollar:

This increase has reached a point that dealing in dollars is nearly to the point of being sinful.

During the last nine months the price of the dollar has increased eight fold, while Lebanon buys 75 percent of its consumer imports with dollars.

‘Alameh Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah, one of the combative clergy of Lebanon, said: The acts of the Lebanese government are ultimately in conformity with the desires of the occupying regime of Jerusalem.

Speaking at a meeting of the Muslim Student Union of Lebanon, he said: The political situation in Lebanon is such that there is no possibility of profoundly confronting Israel, because the Lebanese government still believes it necessary to maintain privileges for parties and factions, of which the Christians are one.

Continuing his talks, he called for a change in the existing political situation in Lebanon, basing it on Islam, and changing prevailing circumstances in the area.

In another part of his talk, ‘Alameh Fazlollah attacked America’s policy of supporting Israel. He said: It would be very naive of us to think that America, having obtained a few papers, would overlook turning the area into a protected zone for itself and Israel.

Sheikh Hoseyn Fazlollah also said in an interview: Our aim is to awaken the Islamic conscience of the people; we are not in favor of force, but we consider the use of force acceptable when the enemy directs harsh measures and attacks at us, and we consider it our right to use force in order to eliminate the enemy.

Yesterday the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA printed an interview its correspondents had held with ‘Alameh Sheikh Hoseyn Fazlollah in Lebanon.

Picture of Emam Khomeyni

In the article, the newspaper's correspondent wrote: Sheikh Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah, a powerful Lebanese leader, received us in a room with a picture of Emam Khomeyni on the wall and answered our questions. Sheikh Fazlollah, who has just returned from a trip to Iran, was asked whether he was able to see the Imam on this trip. He said: My trip to Iran was made for religious reasons, and Emam Khomeyni did not have an opportunity to meet with me.

He was asked whether it is true that he is the leader of a group of Lebanese Partisans of God. He said: This propaganda exists because I am opposed to American imperialism and corruption in Lebanon, and my ideas conform to the Islamic revolution of Iran. I am not the leader of a special group. Our goal is to awaken the Islamic conscience of the people. We are not fanatics at all, and we do not favor the use of force, but we consider it acceptable and our right to use force to destroy the enemy who attacks us with the use of harsh measures.

He added: Our aim is to establish divine and liberating Islamic law for all the people, Muslim, Christian, and Jewish, because we believe that only these laws will establish justice in the world. We will not establish it through force and severity, however; it will be entirely subject to the free choice of the people of Lebanon.

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CSO: 4640/506

1 May 1985

IRAN

EXTENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN HEAVY INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED

Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Mar 85 pp 1-5

[Text] The level of private sector participation in heavy industry has been announced in a statement from the Ministry of Heavy Industry. According to this report, from the beginning of the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] until 1 Bahman of 1363 [21 January 1985] a total of 4,197 agreements in principle with fixed capital of more than 100.8 billion rials were issued. Of this quantity, 124.2 billion rials were allocated to the private sector, which amounts to 80 percent of all new capital investment in heavy industry.

Of all approved investment in the period mentioned, around 31 percent came from relatively large investments, that is fixed capital of more than 500 million rials. The remaining 69 percent was made up of investments of less than 500 million rials. In other words, in 106 industries applied for in the private sector, priority was given to public corporations in order to provide for maximum participation by the people in factory shares, especially workers in the units.

From the beginning of the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] until 1 Bahman of 1363 [21 January 1985] a total of 786 establishment permits were issued with fixed investments of more than 15 billion rials. Seven of the establishment permits issued, with an investment volume of 2.9 billion rials from the reconstruction crusade and nationalized units. The rest of the permits, with an investment volume of 12 billion rials, were issued to the private sector.

The Ministry of Heavy Industry report states that the approved fixed investment in heavy industry for the first ten months... [text missing] ... billion rials of this investment is for 4,158 agreements in principle, with an average investment of more than 26 million rials, including participation from small industrialists and small investments for the construction of industrial units under the mantle of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. At the same time, this ministry's policy with regard to the implementation of large projects for the year 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] in itself accounted for more than 2.6 times the volume of investments approved in all industrial fields, including all heavy and light industries, for the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978].

The report adds: A comparison of the total value of the production of non-government heavy industry units, on the basis of statistics and information collected on 101 public production units which have been in operation since the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978] or went into operation before the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] shows that the total value of the production of these units in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] increased 35 percent, and in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] it increased 42 percent over the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983]. Likewise, the level of production of some products in this sector

has also increased significantly in recent years. For example, production indicators for some heavy industry products in the private sector, including motorcycles, pipes, aluminum contours, various dampers and various kinds of cement mixers increased in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984] over the year 1356 [21 March 1977 – 20 March 1978] with an indicator of 100 at the rates of 263, 159, 174, and 251 respectively.

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CSO: 4640/507

IRAN

MUSAVI URGES OFFICIALS TO BE MORE SENSITIVE TO MEDIA ROLE

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 24 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, on the first day of the seminar for central public relations offices, participants met with Prime Minister Engineer Musavi.

Brother Taj-Zadeh, Deputy Minister of Islamic Guidance for International Public Relations, began the meeting by reporting on the way in which this seminar was organized.

Mr Musavi then gave a talk in which he dealt with the importance and the position of public relations. He said: At the beginning of the revolution the importance of cultural work in our country was not given much attention; only the Imam of the nation was fully aware and mindful of the importance of cultural efforts, and he has discussed this matter regularly all along. The Imam of the nation continues to stress the importance of cultural work in society today, and what we are seeing is that many weaknesses are compensated for through cultural activities. Although everything that is being done in the area of art and culture is not suitable for the Islamic revolution, there has been progress on this road to an extent. The Prime Minister added: Public relations is one of the most important and basic components of each of our organizations. The richer and more extensive public relations work is, the more officials will be concerned with it and will feel a need for it and a closeness to it. The relationship of public relations offices with the people has two sides. Part of their relationship with the people is established through the press. Unfortunately, a weakness in the public relations offices is that they do not take effective steps to establish close relations with the press due to insufficient attention to the issue's importance. The press's task is to deliver interesting news to the people; the idea that the newspapers must publish whatever public relations offices give them is mistaken. The public relations offices must have the best and most extensive relations with the press and the media, and they must convey the best and most lively information to them as a matter of duty.

In another portion of his talk, the prime minister noted that the sensitivity of some officials to the importance of the work of the press is very low, while these media can play a sensitive role in explaining the necessity and dimensions of the programs and achievements of organizations. At the beginning of the implementation of every new project, society must be informed of its dimensions and importance. The prime minister considered it a revolutionary necessity to inform the people of the achievements and plans of every organization, in order to thwart the counterrevolution, give hope to the people, and attract their support.

The prime minister stressed that the public relations offices have a complex role in relationship with the people, and the secret of their success is having familiarity and sympathy with the people's pains. Public relations offices must be sensitive to issues current in society: they must

consider precisely the human aspects and events. Every official in an Islamic society must feel the pains of the people as they are in order to be able to find a solution. The assessment and transmission of the people's pains to officials is one of the basic responsibilities of public relations offices. Public relations officials must be the most sensitive and aware individuals regarding society; they must participate in the resolution of social complexities, and offer plans. Mr Musavi also stressed the necessity for the exchange of experiences among public relations officials. He said:

In order to raise the quality of public relations work, officials in organizations must make sufficient information concerning their programs and accomplishments available to the public relations offices, and they must view the public relations office as the cultural essence of every organization. We are being attacked on the propaganda front more than anywhere else. The soldiers on this front are you public relations officials and workers; you must repel the attacks and discourage the enemy. Our country's prime minister noted that the detailed programs and speeches on the radios of America, the B.B.C. of England, and the West German media against the government of the Islamic republic are in no way accidental.

It is no accident when the Red Cross spreads lies about us; all the world's media are being mobilized to blacken the face of this revolution in order to satisfy their masters. What has thwarted propaganda against the Islamic republic in the past has been the people's awareness, who have thwarted the enemy's propaganda with firm faith in the Imam, the clergy, and the officials. In the past we have had no organized program for confronting enemy propaganda; if we can work against the enemy's cultural assaults on the revolution in an organized way through the media, we will assuredly get better results thwarting these plots. In conclusion, the prime minister noted: Today we are being attacked by propaganda in the world through various newspapers and radio and television. I believe that we must strike back at the enemy blow for blow, and our media must not be indifferent to this. Why should the European newspapers publish lies about our revolution, while we say nothing about these newspapers and the regimes in these countries? In this area our media must have the best plans. The enemies of the revolution are afraid of public opinion in our country.

In view of the fact that freedom of the press in the countries of the Eastern and Western blocs is a lie, and of the relationship between the content of the press and the goals of their governments, our press and media must take strong positions against these dependent press and media.

We must continuously speak sharply and for ourselves against the enemies of the revolution; in truth the newspapers must be the spearhead of our nation's assault on imperialism, and do a good job of fulfilling their independent role in this area.

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CSO: 4640/501

IRAN

IMPORTS PASS 11 MILLION TONS DURING MARCH-DECEMBER 1984

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN Tehran BURS in Persian 26 Feb 85 p 2

[The Ministry of Roads and Transportation has issued a statement announcing that the amount of freight imported into the country in the first 10 months of the current year [21 March - 22 December 1984], not including goods transferred from place to place in urban freight, was 16.8 million tons, of which 11.1 million tons came in through the ports with the remaining 5.7 million tons coming in through the other import routes. The amount of goods brought into the country through the ports compared to the years 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] and 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] has increased 52 and 17 percent respectively. Domestic freight carried 11 percent of all imports in the first ten months of the current year increased; this is a 50 percent increase over the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] and a two percent decrease over the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984]. These goods were hauled into the country in 942,000 truck trips and on 39,000 rail cars. The same report says that in the first ten months of the current year freight imported into the country amounted to 15.2 million tons, 9.7 million tons, or 64 percent of all imports, coming in through the ports, the remaining 36 percent through other import routes. These import figures, in comparison with figures for the years 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983] and 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] show a 29 percent increase and a 25 percent decrease, respectively. Likewise, the amount of basic goods unloaded at the ports during this period was around 6.7 million tons; including an additional 1.3 million tons of basic goods brought into the country through land routes, the total is around eight million tons. This figure is one percent higher than scheduled, and includes 320,000 tons of goods now being unloaded at the docks and 369,000 tons waiting to be unloaded. According to the same report, the amount of basic goods brought into the country's geographical area in the first ten months of the current year also reached 8.7 million tons, which is 10 percent more than planned. Based on existing statistics, the increased freight through all import routes has caused 1.4 million tons of sedimentary goods to be imported through the ports and 166,000 tons of sedimentary goods to be imported through other land access routes.

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CSO: 4640/501

IRAN

PROJECT UNDER STUDY TO ASSEMBLE FIAT

Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Mr Kazem-Pur Ardebili, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economics and International Affairs, gave a press conference after his four-day trip to Italy and answered various questions from correspondents. Having been in Italy since last Wednesday at the head of a political and economic delegation, he discussed existing economic relations between the two countries in the areas of development and industrial production projects, such as the Martyr Raja'i Dock Project at Bandar Abbas, the Esfahan Mobarakeh Steel Project, several electrical power and transmission projects, and he also enumerated several areas of activity for important Italian companies in Iran.

In this regard, Mr Kazem-Pur discussed the pipeline project to carry Iranian gas through Turkey and Greece to Italy, mentioning the names of several European countries that will be cooperating with the two countries in the future. He added: The length of this pipeline is 4,000 kilometers. It will connect to the Mediterranean through the Port of Iskanderun. This project, which will cost around 10 billion dollars according to preliminary studies, will deliver 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually to the European market. In this regard, the cooperation of several Italian companies with the Islamic Republic of Iran will be studied. Likewise, proposals from Italian automobile production factories such as the Fiat Company for the production of Model 121 automobiles, some construction and road building machinery, and mini-busses, are being studied by economic officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If it is determined that the proposals are suitable, a new door will be opened in economic relations between the two countries.

He then commented on the situation with the imposed war and recent reports from the United Nations delegation. He said: We have declared repeatedly that we had no desire to start the war. Iraq's invasion took place while our people were rebuilding the country.

Mr Ardebili then discussed various unrealistic resolutions issued by United Nations Security Council since the beginning of the imposed war concerning Iran, and Iraq's violation of the 1925 and 1949 resolutions, and he considered its failure to answer the Secretary General of the United Nations request that it not bomb residential areas or use chemical weapons in Iran, which Iran accepted unilaterally, as the reason for the Zionist regime of Iraq's decision to use these inhumane methods in the future. Kazem-Pur was asked for his assessment of the Western press and media's support of the hypocrite's organization, which calls itself progressive and leftist. He said: If terrorists like the Red Brigade, the Badern Meinhoff, and other terrorist groups in Europe, or the counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua are progressive leftists, this terrorist organization is also progressive leftist. It must be asked in what way it is progressive leftist, and how it came to receive the support of the most rightist American senators..

This terrorist organization is responsible for the assassination of a large number of national officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and is responsible for the killing of thousands of innocent people in our country, and it has no popular support in the country.

IRAN

BRIEFS

HOUSING UNITS TRANSFER—Through the efforts of workers of the Foundation for the Oppressed in the Province of East Azarbaijan, 750 housing units have been completed since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in various parts of this province and turned over to qualified applicants, and a project for the construction of 80 apartments is also being implemented. The supervisor of this province's Foundation for the Oppressed gave an exclusive interview to a correspondent from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. While announcing this, he discussed this organization's future activities and plans. He said: At the present time a project to build two production factories for industrial and agricultural polyethylene and machined bricks, as well as a project to expand factories affiliated with this foundation, such as the Laleh Towel Factory and the Fard Beverage Factory are being carried out by this foundation. He said: In the implementation of these projects, 80 percent of the construction work has been completed on the new Laleh Towel Factory, and some of the machinery it needs has also been purchased and will be installed and utilized in the near future. The supervisor of the Foundation for the Oppressed of East Azarbaijan then discussed activities of some of this organization's mines. He said: At the present time 250 tons of red travertine are being extracted monthly from the mines of Setanabad and Sardarabad of the city of Azar and exported to other countries. Likewise the Dash Kasan lime and marble mines of the city of Azar, the Jalfa salt marble mines, the salt mines of Sorab, and the chalk and red lime mines of Hastrud are being satisfactorily exploited. Concluding the interview, he mentioned 600 million rials of the foundation's previous debts, as well as grants to affiliated units in the amount of 50 million rials, among other activities of this foundation. With regard to the participation of this foundation's workers in the imposed war, he said: In this regard, in addition to sending tens of units of light and heavy machinery to the fronts, more than 80 million rials in cash and more than 100 committed people have been sent to the various fronts. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Mar 85 pp 1,5] 9310

CSO: 4640/507

NEPAL

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN ENVOY NAMED--Mr Abderrahmane Ben Sid has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the King of Nepal, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr Ben Sid resides in New Delhi. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 1 Apr 84 p 1]

MAURITIUS ENVOY NAMED--His majesty the king has appointed royal Nepalese ambassador to India Jagadish Shumsher J.B.R. as royal Nepalese ambassador to Mauritius also. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 19 Mar 85 p 1]

FINNISH ENVOY NAMED--Mr Jan Henrik Groop has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Finland to the Kingdom of Nepal according to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued here Wednesday. Mr Groop resides in New Delhi. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Mar 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/378

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT ZIA'S AUTHORITY TO AMEND CONSTITUTION QUESTIONED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 21 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "President Zia Cannot Be The Constitution Maker"]

[Text] President Qiaul Haq has given assurance that no basic changes will be made in the 1973 constitution. Even though an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion persists, we are prepared to hope that President Zia will remain true to his promise and in the matter of constitutional amendments he will not turn his back on his promises. The reason for doubt is that the draft for constitutional amendments that the government has prepared according to its own wishes is still kept secret. It is not known whether it will be announced before the elections, during the elections or after. It is also not known whether according to the amendments under consideration, the assembly will have powers and real supremacy or whether the position of president will be above or superior to the assembly. National Security Council and its relative position is also an important issue. All these factors will determine whether the basic, i.e. the parliamentary nature of the 1973 constitution is maintained. Otherwise changing the parliamentary system into a presidential system will be taken to mean that not only a basic change has been brought about in the 1973 constitution but that the constitution has been completely altered and the old constitution has been destroyed and a new one created. This will not be acceptable from any point of view, legal or political.

It can be said that after the referendum, the presidential system has been adopted and that the 1973 constitution no longer exists. But in this country two attitudes were adopted towards the referendum. According to one, the referendum was completely unacceptable and it was branded unconstitutional. According to the other, the referendum was accepted conditionally and the top most condition was the proviso that no such meaning or interpretation be attached to the referendum that could go against the 1973 constitution. For this reason the requirements of 1973 constitution take priority over the referendum. And whatever conclusions are drawn from the referendum, these will not grant President Ziaul Haq permission to go against the fundamental principles of the 1973 constitution. The authority that the president derives from the referendum is limited solely to holding elections under the 1973 constitution and after the elections to end martial law and, as required by the constitution, to function as a civilian president of the country. Although

he can amend the constitution to balance powers between the president and the prime minister, such amendments must not be against the spirit of the constitution or the requirements of parliamentary system.

So far as Tehrik-e Islami is concerned, its vice-president, Chaudhary Rehmat Ilahi, while expressing his party's point of view on powers of parliament and constitutional amendments, said that his party regards parliament as the highest institution of the land, next only to the Koran and the Islamic law. "What we say is that though the first parliament will hold its first session under orders of martial law, the martial law should end before the close of the session. After elections there will be a change in the situation and those who believe that they can keep control of authority and the situation will be disillusioned." Referring to constitutional amendments, the vice-president of the Tehrik stated that in principle constitutional amendments should be through the parliament. If however any amendments are unavoidable, the political elements should be taken into confidence in this matter. At the time of referendum President Zia had accepted Jamaat-e Islami's conditions that the assemblies will be vested with powers under the 1973 constitution, authority of prime minister will be in accordance with his status and the president will not be made an authoritarian figure. And if the president's amendments do not meet these conditions, we will not tolerate them. Another leader of the Tehrik, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi has also said that although in principle the authority to amend constitution should be vested only with the parliament, we have, because of compelling circumstances, supported the amendments balancing powers between the president and prime minister. In this connection our stand is that any such amendment should be within the limits suggested by the opposition constitutional committee on powers of president and the prime minister at the time of drawing up of 1973 constitution. Another leader of the Tehrik-e Islami, Mr Munnawwar Hassan stated that his party's point of view was that we do not consider president's unilateral constitutional amendments to be appropriate. He has no such legal or traditional rights and constitutional issues are not a plaything that they can be left to the wishes of a single person.

These statements from leaders of the Tehrik-e Islami on the question of constitutional amendments serve as a warning. It means that if leaders of Jamaat-e Islami have accepted referendum, President Zia in turn has agreed to abide by the 1973 amendments. The president's position is not that of a free constitution-maker who is empowered to change old laws into new laws. That is why we welcome assurance on the part of the President Ziaul Haq that he will not announce any amendments contrary to the fundamental principles of the 1973 constitution. We pray to God that the president stays firm on his assurance, otherwise the political problems of this country will take a very serious, dangerous and critical shape.

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CSO: 4656/93

PAKISTAN

PAPER DENOUNCES SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S ANTI-PAKISTAN REMARKS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 17 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "For Mr Smirnov"]

/Text/ The manner in which the Russian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Smirnov, in his capacity as chief guest in various meetings and functions, not only bluntly criticizes Pakistan's foreign policy but also freely condemns and denounces Pakistan's government and its policies is a completely new phenomenon the like of which has not been seen anywhere else. One possible reason for this is that this way he wants to pat the backs of Russian agents and supporters in Pakistan. It is also possible that by adopting this tough and harsh attitude he wants to intimidate the public opinion and to vitiate the political atmosphere here. It is also possible that he is adopting this aggressive posture in order to divert attention from Russia's role as the culprit in Afghanistan. Maybe his remarks are motivated by all these three factors. There is absolutely no reason for us to get upset however, The Russian envoy is welcome to indulge his desires to his heart's content but let him understand it clearly that this way he cannot bring Pakistan closer to Russia and in fact it will have harmful effects on Pakistan-U.S.S.R. relations.

In his capacity as ambassador it is not the duty of Mr Smirnov to win renown as the severest critic of Pakistan's social and political life or to make speeches to provide relief to the angry and restless elements in the country. In fact, on his shoulders lies the heavy responsibility that he should work so that Russian-Pakistani relations become pleasant or at least the seriousness of their differences on various issues is lessened. We are sorry to note that the Russian envoy is taking exactly the opposite road. We would have no quarrel with this attitude had we been the supporters of permanently bad and strained relations between Russia and Pakistan. We hold the view that better relations between Russia and Pakistan are an urgent need of both the countries and, had it not been for the Afghanistan problem, the voice of people desiring closer relations would have been received with better attention and in a more appropriate manner. Despite the Afghanistan issue it is the common desire of Pakistanis to have good relations with Russia and to hope that once the Afghanistan issue is peacefully resolved, the two countries could embark on a new era of cooperation based on good neighborliness and close relations. But the way Mr Smirnov goes on making poisonous speeches, it looks as though between Russia and Pakistan there is permanent enmity which

will never end and under no conditions is Russia prepared to 'forgive' Pakistan. Is this really true? And the way Mr Smirnov has become the spokesman of the attitude of enmity, is it in accordance with the policy of Moscow? This is a question to which we do not want to offer any reply and it will be fitting that the Russian government and its envoy ponder over the question.

Now that we have referred to the hostile speeches of Russian envoy let us have a look on the differences between Russia and Pakistan on the subject of freedom of expression. Pakistan, as you know, is under martial law and the worst one can imagine in the area of political and civic liberties is true. But even this worst situation is incomparably superior to the best conditions in Russia where, not to mention ordinary citizens, even Mr Smirnov does not have the same freedom of expression as he enjoys in Pakistan and which he demonstrates from time to time. Would that Mr Smirnov was free to express his thoughts against the government of the day in a free and blunt manner in Russia and the Pakistani ambassador in Moscow had the same right. Anyway, it is alright if the Pakistani ambassador does not have the right to express his opinion on Afghanistan issue in any meeting in the Soviet Union, but the tragedy is that even the Russian thinkers, and writers do not have the least right to speak a word against the government. In other words, outside the socialist world, the countries with the worst record in freedom of expression are far better off than Russia. It would only be fitting if Mr Smirnov feels overwhelmed by this indignity and hangs his head down in shame.

By all this we do not mean that we are not aware of the drawbacks of the Western capitalist system and the real achievements of the Russian and Chinese socialist system. It is true that western freedom of thought produced unique works of imagination and creation and the western system, in spite of the blessings of intellectual freedom, is headed towards complete moral bankruptcy. On the other hand, the socialist system has arranged food, shelter and clothing for every person. Even from moral point of view, it is superior to the western society though this superiority appears to be on the wane. It is possible that this slide may be stopped but the complete deprivation of intellectual freedom is a curse for which there is no cure. In this regard, leave aside democratic nations, Russia cannot compare even with a country like Pakistan which is under military dictatorship.

We may put forward another idea if Mr Smirnov would consider it. If he really wants to improve relations between Russia and Pakistan, the creditable venture, just as it would be thwarted by the mental slaves of the West, would be hindered by the mental slaves and supporters of Russia. They have been an obstacle in the way and will be so in the future. For Russia the first step to better relations with Pakistan would be to move out of the circle of both kind of mental slaves and to recognize and understand the thinking of those true Pakistanis who represent Islamic thinking and temper. The result of ignoring them has been that to this day Russia and Pakistan have been moving

away from each other. If this process continues, the gulf will never be bridged and tension will continue to mount. This has done no good either to Pakistan or to Russia and this tension has been growing because of Mr Smirnov's remarks. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, no one in Pakistan believes that either Afghanistan or Pakistan should be cast in the role of Russia's enemy. All that Pakistan wants is that Russian troops should leave Afghanistan, thus enabling Afghanistan as a free country to have good relations with both Russia and Pakistan. This will also remove an obstacle in the way of happy relations with Russia. Then Pakistan and Afghanistan will also have fraternal relations. But in the way of Pakistan's desire for happy relations with Russia is India-Russia relations. For Russia the problem is that it wants to please India at all costs so that India may not join the American camp. On this basis it is necessary for Russia to have, and to demonstrate, bad and strained relations with Pakistan. In the meantime, if no progress can be made towards better relations, at least the Russian propaganda tending to further aggravate the situation can surely be stopped.

12286

CSO: 4656/93

PAKISTAN

NOMINATION OF SIND CHIEF MINISTER FROM OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY CRITICIZED

GF121303 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 7 Apr 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The Sind Chief Minister--A Wrong Precedent"]

[Excerpts] Mr Justice Ghous Ali Shah, Sind's minister for law and civic affairs, has officially been nominated as Sind chief minister. He has taken the oath of office. Mr Ghous Ali Shah is not a member of the Sind assembly and an undemocratic precedent has been set in a partyless assembly--that the chief minister is not a member of the National Assembly.

We are astonished that from among the large number of members of the Sind assembly, there was not a single member who appeared suitable for this post, although it is a fact that among the candidates there was Pir Sibghatullah, son of the Pir of Pagaro [leader of a defunct party] Shafqat Jamote, and Aijaz Ali Talpur. Even if one name could not be agreed upon, a session of the house could have been summoned and a decision could have been taken or an opinion poll or a secret ballot could have been arranged whereby the people would have had a chance to select their own leader. Contrary to the wishes of the members of the National Assembly the Sind governor nominated Mr Ghous Ali Shah as the chief minister, saying that once before an outsider had been nominated as the chief minister. [passage omitted]

We feel that the Sind government's decision has been forcibly imposed on the people. The nomination of an individual as a chief minister for whom the people have not voted and who was not elected from any circle is tantamount to vetoing the people's decision. This gives the impression that the government could not find even one person in the assembly who would administer the province according to its own wishes. Each candidate for this post had clear political affiliations and opinions and definite views on the need to end martial law and the restitution of democracy which were not acceptable to the government, hence an outsider was brought on the pretext of "cliques in the assembly."

The above-mentioned action by the government is not only contrary to the traditions of democracy, but is also a source of consternation to the members. There are old veteran parliamentarians in the assembly and highly educated individuals as well, but they have been ignored as they did not conform to the government's criteria.

We do not feel any qualms in presenting this analysis, compiled after much forethought, as the above decision will have negative effects on the policy in Sind. [passage omitted]

PAKISTAN

JATOI'S REMARKS, PROPOSALS DISCUSSED

GF170730 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 12 Apr 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The 14 Points"]

[Excerpts] The former Sind chief minister and now the leader of the MRD, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, in his "Meet the Press" program spoke to correspondents and said that he had presented a 14-point program to the newly elected members of the National Assembly. He said: If the members of the assembly fail to implement the 14-point program, then the elections should be held again. [passage omitted covered in ref]

Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has given the government 2 to 3 months to implement his demands. He has said that if during this period the newly elected members are unable to implement these demands, then a campaign will be started to hold new elections for the legislative assembly.

Although Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has presented these 14 points in his capacity as an individual, these cannot be called the official MRD manifesto, but numerous other leaders of the parties which are members of the MRD have expressed their support for these points. It is expected that these 14 points will be discussed at the next MRD session and that they might be incorporated into the official MRD manifesto.

The 14 points presented by Mr Jatoi can be called the voice of the people if the government adopts a generous attitude and attempts to resolve national issues with mutual compromise. Except for one or two points which the government has moved too far away from, these points can be implemented without any hindrances. And even on those one or two points, some sort of mutually acceptable solution can be found through discussion. [passage omitted]

CSO: 4656/112

PAKISTAN

JUNEJO SPEECH ANALYZED

GF051404 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 2 Apr 85 p 3

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Junejo has spoken at length on national and international issues in his maiden speech on radio and television.

Undoubtedly the tone adopted by the prime minister regarding politicians is commendable. We have always seen and heard that most of the governments in office had made the politicians the target of their taunts and criticism. They have refused to accept their right to differ and it has been said that whatever ills existed in the past were due to these politicians. We feel that by calling the politicians "patriots" Prime Minister Junejo has recognized their right to differ and by appealing for their cooperation, he has attempted to reduce to a great extent, the atmosphere of bitterness. He is a politician himself and in order to restore the prestige of the politicians and reach a compromise through negotiations is in itself a democratic process and is also essential in the face of the problems that face Mr Junejo.

An important factor mentioned by the prime minister while speaking on national issues was that his government would be a national one, not one of a particular party. This must have definitely shattered the dreams of certain circles. In any case it is a fact that Prime Minister Junejo's nomination was made in the light of his personal merits and individual qualities. He was not the nominated candidate of any particular party and the elections were not held on a party basis either. Even the vote of confidence he received unanimously from the National Assembly was given to him in his individual capacity. In this nexus of events, the establishment of a government on a national [not a party] basis becomes inevitable and by announcing this as such, he has nipped many problems in the bud before they could even rear their heads.

The prime minister has promised to resolve all problems in his speech, regarding which it can be said that those issues were brought to light which the martial law government was not able to eradicate in 8 years and this is its greatest failure. Despite martial law's extensive power bribery increased instead of decreasing, basic amenities could not be provided to the rural population, potable water was not available in many areas, temporary settlements were ignored and hundreds of thousands of acres of land were allowed to be wasted due to salinity and waterlogging. This part of the

prime minister's speech exposes the mirage of the martial law government's performance during its 8 years in power.

On the whole, the prime minister's speech can be considered hopeful. He has made some promises and laid some facts before the nation openly and without any trimmings or innuendoes; he has stated his intentions simply. Those who were expecting sensational revelations from his speech must certainly have been disappointed but we feel that it would not have been appropriate if he had made any sensational utterances or any major decision at this juncture merely in order to obtain temporary adulation for himself.

As regards the promises he has made on democracy, people's rights, their problems and the powers of the judiciary their fulfillment depends on the extent and nature of his powers in the future and for which we shall have to wait awhile. The prime minister had said himself recently while talking to newsmen that time will show everything, as well as, how many powers I have.

CSO: 4656/111

PAKISTAN

POLITICIANS URGED TO FORMULATE NEW POLICY

GF091754 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 3 Apr 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Politicians Should Adopt New Policies"]

[Excerpts] The chief of the defunct Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Pakistan Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani told correspondents on his release that politicians will have to change their policies because circumstances have changed, as have the demands of politics. He said that the newly elected members of the National Assembly should do something concrete to raise their voices for the rights of the people. He said: We are going to sit outside the assembly and watch whether the newly elected members strive for the rights of the voters or for their own personal interests.

We feel that Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani has alluded to an important point. Those politicians who have been away from the election campaign because of the government's policy or their own lack of planning should now admit that the country is not willing to start any new campaign or that the direction of the decisions taken can be turned to suit their own interests by means of a public campaign.

The people have been responsible for the success of those persons who promised the end of martial law in the country and the restitution of democracy and the basic rights of the people. Now, as Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani has stated, these members are dutybound to play their role in fulfilling the promises made to the people and those politicians who are outside the assembly, whether they belong to the MRD or not, should adopt a new policy. Besides this, their national role now depends on the newly elected members. If the latter are successful in terminating martial law in the country and the process of the restitution of rights begins, then nothing remains for the politicians outside the National Assembly.

It is ironical that our politicians are drifting with the tide and are looking for the light at the end of the tunnel. Events and circumstances are now beyond their control, hence they have no choice but to formulate a new policy. Other politicians, including Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, have accepted this fact. However, in drawing up a new policy, it should be borne in mind that conditions and demands have changed and that the country cannot bear any more trouble and dissension. A part of the new policy could be for the politicians to guide those who are in the assembly. Whether they do so or whether they receive guidance from those within depends on their own perceptiveness.

PAKISTAN

TIES WITH SRI LANKA LAUDED

GF061440 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 31 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Friendly Ties With Sri Lanka"]

[Excerpts] The Sri Lankan president has been in Pakistan for a week and the warm welcome accorded to him is undoubtedly evidence of the friendly ties between the two countries.

The basic factor in the relations between the two countries is that there is complete unanimity of views on international issues and both the countries desire that countries should adopt a uniform stand on ending the arms race and concentrating all attention on improving the lot of the citizens of all the countries. Pakistan has always supported Sri Lanka's sovereignty and independence. When the Tamil secessionists reared their heads in Sri Lanka and some foreign countries supported them in subversive activities against the government, Pakistan expressed its disapproval and deemed it interference in Sri Lankan affairs.

There is no doubt that the Sri Lankan government's efforts to solve the Tamil issue are commendable but the task has been rendered difficult because of foreign support for secessionists. If all the countries of the region remain firm on the policy of nonintervention in another's internal affairs then such insurgence can be curbed.

It is hoped that President Jayawardene's visit to Pakistan will be instrumental in bringing the people of the two countries closer together, trade ties will expand and cultural delegations will be exchanged and since there is complete harmony between the two countries on international issues, it will help in fostering peace and security in the region.

CSO: 4656/112

1 May 1985

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

PRC DELEGATION ARRIVES--A high-level Chinese delegation, led by the Minister in Charge of the Family Planning Commission, Wang Wei, arrived in Karachi from Beijing last night. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Apr 85 BK]

FAMILY PLANNING AGREEMENT WITH PRC--Pakistan and China signed a protocol for cooperation in the field of family planning in Islamabad today. The agreement was signed for China by Wang Wei, minister in charge of China's Family Planning Commission, and for Pakistan by the Federal Minister for Finance and Planning. Under the protocol, the two countries have agreed to cooperate in various fields, including the proper education and publicity in family planning; strengthening of services at the grass-roots level, and undertaking research in various techniques of population planning. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Apr 85 BK]

AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT--Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq has been appointed Pakistani ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 4 Apr 85 BK]

CHINESE AID ON TEA--China will assist Pakistan in setting up a national tea research institute and increasing tea production. Under an agreement signed in Islamabad, Chinese tea experts will provide technical know-how and services to the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council to set up the research institute in Mansera Division. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 85 BK]

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15 May 85

BANGLADESH

TIMES INTERVIEWS PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION LEADER

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 Mar 85 pp 1,8

[Text] Leader of the visiting Chinese friendship delegation, Mr. Wan Guoquan has said he was impressed by the immense fund of love which exists in Bangladesh for his country. He described Bangladeshis as 'brave and active people' and said he was certain that Bangladesh will make greater progress shortly.

Mr. Wan referred to the meeting of his delegation with President H. M. Ershad and said they felt honoured and pleased at the cordiality shown by the President.

The leader of the five member Chinese delegation was giving his impressions about their 12-day visit to Bangladesh in an interview with the Bangladesh Times. He said "Bangladesh and China are old friends and will continue to remain good friends." He suggested more frequent exchanges of good will missions, intellectuals and others between the two countries for yet better understanding of each others' positions.

Mr. Wan Guoquan as Vice Chairman of China National Democratic Construction Association, a democratic political party, is a senior politician of his country. The China National Democratic Construction Association is one of the eight political parties which forms the united front with the Communist Party of China to run the country.

Mr. Wan is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC). He is also a council member of the Chinese Association for International Understanding. As a leading economist of his country Mr. Wan is also a director of the China International Trust and Investment Corporation.

Magic Wand

Mr Wan's China National Democratic Construction Association 'party' as a partner of the united front works in close collaboration with the Chinese Communist Party. These eight small parties co-operated with the Communist Party during the long and arduous Chinese liberation struggle. Their members are associated with all phases of party and administrative organisations including the People's Congress in China. Explaining the nature of co-operation between the united front partners Mr Wan said that late leaders Chairman Mao Zedong and Prime

Minister Chou En-lai gave concrete shape to the unity. He said the Chinese Communist Party 'values the unity as a solid magic wand'. He said with close liaison with the Communist party the small components of the front are contributing immensely to the socialist reconstruction and the four modernisation policy of the People's China.

Mr. Wan said his party has 27,000 members and they are mostly professional intellectuals like economists. He said "our party members are more involved in economic activities and we do not have members among the workers, peasants or the PLA."

CDNCA

The China Democratic National Construction Association (CDNCA) is led by Mr. Hu Chuoy Wen. He is now 90 years old and a Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Political Consultative Congress, the parliament of China, Mr. Hu was a prominent industrialist and the head Shanghai Municipal Government when the Japanese invaded China in the thirties.

He made significant contributions in the anti-Japanese resistance War in close co-operation with the Communist Party. When Shanghai fell to the Japanese aggressors he organised and encouraged about 100 other industrialists to move out to the liberated areas. Many members of the CDNCA had been ministers in the central and provincial governments since liberation. In the present People's Congress the party has 30 members elected by the people. The present chief of the Teng Ching city administration is a member of this party.

The CDNCA on its own organises and sets up schools in the comparatively backward national minority areas. For this the party members do not take any salary from the state. The party maintains them out of its own funds.

Equal Responsibility

"The Chinese Communist party", Mr. Wan said, "as a matter of general principle consolidates the unity of all people and our job is to follow it and implement the programmes". Mr. Wan said before taking decisions the Communist Party discusses the matter with the aligned parties and "we even point out mistakes, if any in the programme." He said the members of the smaller parties equipped theoretical knowledge and expertise have contributed vastly to the Chinese progress and their participation are well recognised and appreciated in the country.

He said late Chairman Mac always emphasised on sharing of knowledge through mutual exchanges and unity of the parties. He said, "with the Communist Party we are one in success and in adversity". He said, "we share the honour and dignity with the people and we also take equal responsibility if something goes wrong."

Mr. Wan Guoquan said during the heady days of the Cultural Revolution in the late sixties and early seventies his party also suffered like others components of the united front in China. He said the "red guards threw many of us

out during the Cultural Revolution but we retrieved our positions later and started functioning as before after the third plenary session of the People's Congress."

Hegemonism

Assisted by the deputy leader of the friendship delegation Madam Chou Shichin and elegant looking interpreter Ms. Zeng Guilan who speaks fluent Bangla' Mr. Wan also elaborated Chinese policies particularly on Afghanistan and Kampuchea issues and on Beijing-Moscow relationship during the hour long interview. He said the Chinese policies are "clear and explicit". He said, "we are opposed to hegemonism in all varieties and manifestation and we always support the cause of the weaker nation under threat from a stronger one."

Mr. Wan said China wanted to improve relations with the Soviet Union. But, he went on, until there were just solutions of Afghanistan and Kampuchean problems and until the huge deployment of Soviet troops on our borders are withdrawn, a better relationship with Moscow was not possible.

Sino-Soviet Ties

The Chinese Friendship delegation leader said, "Soviet troops from Afghanistan must go and so are the Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea and the people of these two countries must be allowed to live freely and assert their own rights." He pointed out that withdrawing of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the Vietnamese from Kampuchea are the first and foremost conditions for political solutions to these two problems. Replying to a question he said China was ready to discuss with Vietnam to normalise relations if its troops are withdrawn from Kampuchea.

Referring to the current situation in Kampuchea Mr. Wan said that if the Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Khieu Sampan and Mr. Son Sann would consolidate their tripartite unity and broaden its base victory would be of the Kampuchean people. He also reiterated that the government and people of China would continue to support the just struggle of the Kampuchean people.

He said that Chinese honoured the independent and neutral position of Kampuchea.

CSO: 4600/1433

1 May 1985

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT ON, DISCUSS FALL IN GANGES FLOW

Water Diverted to Calcutta

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Matiur Rahman]

[Text]

Bangladesh being the lower riparian of the common international river--the Ganges--has been deprived of its due and legitimate share of the waters because of heavy unilateral withdrawal by India at the upper reaches.

Since India commissioned the controversial Farakka Barrage, though on trial in 1975, the natural and normal flow of the Ganges has been diverted through the feeder canal in West Bengal for flushing the Calcutta port causing serious adverse effect on the Bangladesh economy.

The natural and normal flow of about 60,000 to 70,000 cusecs of water during the pre-commission days now has come down to all-time low--about 30,000 cusecs.

According to reports, the low water level at the Hardinge Bridge point, below the Farakka barrage, during the current dry season has posed serious threats to local industrial plants like the Bheramara power station, North Bengal Paper Mill at Paksey besides navigation and large-scale irrigation in the OK Project area.

It may be mentioned here that as many as eight districts of Bangladesh are heavily depen-

ded on the Ganges waters for farming particularly during the lean period that began from January 1 last.

With the expiry of the memorandum of understanding on May 31 last year, India started the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters without entering into any agreement from the beginning of the current lean period.

The 18-month old memorandum was signed at the Indo-Bangladesh summit between General Ershad and late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1982 with the hope that the two countries would find out long-term solution to the sharing of waters of the Ganges.

Bangladesh immediately after the expiry of the agreement sought India for waters sharing and repeatedly asked Delhi for political level talks after the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission (JRC) had referred back the issue to their respective government rejecting the two proposals--constructing storage dams in Nepal and digging link canal through Bangladesh for augmenting the Ganges flow.

All the Bangladesh requests

including the latest one sent three weeks ago went unheeded as India has not yet replied positively on the issue.

Before the fall of the lean period, the one-day ministerial level meeting of the JRC in Delhi on December 15, 1984 discussed briefly the Ganges waters issue outside the commission's purview but in vain.

It may be mentioned here that the Ershad-Indira summit during which the memorandum of understanding was signed, had assigned the JRC afresh to carry pre-feasibility studies for augmenting the Ganges flows for sharing by the two neighbours. The JRC had earlier futile exercises on the Farakka issue since it came into being in 1972.

Though the vital decision is to be taken at the political level, there is as such no move by India for resolving the Ganges issue that involves economic viability of one third of Bangladesh.

With the fall of the Ganges water, the under-ground water level too in the adjoining districts of the Ganges also started going down to an alarming low.

Opportunity for Rajiv

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Mar 85 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

Twenty-seven joint sessions of the Joint River Commission (JRC), divided evenly between Dhaka and Delhi and three successive agreements, in 1975, 1977, 1982, on the Ganges water sharing seem to have done only one thing: increasing shrinkage of the flow down-stream, falling water levels of the whole net-work of rivers in the Gangetic delta of Bangladesh, rapid siltation, serious disruption of navigation, irrigation, fishery, mass transportation and ecology. Nearly a whole north-western third of Bangladesh is so affected. And the devastating effects of the short-fall in water-supply appear most menacingly during the lean period from October to April. This year the situation has already assumed crisis proportions with the lurking uncertainty created by the JRC failure to work out a long-term agreement by April 1984 under a proposal to do so at the 26th session of it. Neither has there been anything toward a short-term quantum of distributable water for the lean period. Such a blank has occurred for the first time in thirteen years.

But this need not have happened in this way, if it were left to normalcy and nature—and the expectations raised by the turn of circumstances around the year 1971. Emergence of Bangladesh in which India had an involved role could not be reconciled to difficulties being created by such a neighbour of a nature that could be regarded as unfriendly and unneighbourly. In fact, well into the seventies the flow was normal till the time (1975) when a water-agreement had to be signed at the heads of state level in New Delhi. Ever since, the flow has gone on slimming despite meetings and talks.

It need hardly be added that nature's lay-out, the two Himalayan rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Ganges, rising within eighty miles of each other, cover the entire hydrological net-work of India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. And they have flowed over the whole region for centuries with Bangladesh being the natural deltaic outlet for both river systems. But a little after Bangladesh became independent technology plus something put the most massive ever barrage across not only to contain the natural flow of the natural water-courses but also to hinder the flow of the good will that must as naturally have flowed between two neighbours. Bangladesh for herself is not aware of anything she has done to deserve such a treatment. Instead, she has still been wondering why a much bigger neighbour like India which shares with her a turbulent episode of history, should wax so unreasonable and begin to disregard even the common norms of nature and human re-

lations and good neighbourliness. It is relevant in this context to refer to the peaceful sharing of the Indus river waters between India and then West Pakistan under an agreement signed by Pandit Nehru and Ayub Khan. How should it have been different with what is now Bangladesh?

Some tend to suggest that the waters of the Ganges have been polluted by politics. We find it hard to accept such cynicism—although the signs and symptoms at times tend to force one to. Even so, India could not let politics get the better of its economy. There are expert views on record that the Farakka barrage has not been an unmixed blessing for India,—and there had been warnings from experts that it could not be. As we have said, denied the water, Bangladesh's economy suffers a severe blow. But India should also have reason to rethink the negatives along with the apparent positives of the barrage,—and the navigational facilities of the Hoogly river may lose force as a lone argument in favour of a giant project like Farakka.

Nonetheless, the question can be addressed from an angle different from that from which it has been in the past : There is a change in the Indian leadership. Rajiv Gandhi has not accepted in toto all the legacies he has received from the past. His bold and rigorous reforms pushed through within months of his take-over illustrate that he can be really strong and 'clean' in setting things right internally. He can be as strong and original—and clean in dealing with his neighbours—small, poor and essentially good neighbours. And, so motivated and emulating more his grand father Mr. Nehru he has to address these 'bilateral' and neighbourly problems in the region as those of topmost urgency. Both personally, humanly and naturally this seems that important. Internationalisation of the issue or similar things should be unnecessary where a simple gesture might do. In fact, since the initiative now lies with India it is more a question of unilateral rather than bilateral decision. This is basic. Without this being provided the Teesta session scheduled for March 10 might go the way the Ganges ones had.

With the barrage there as impregnable as ever let good will break through it and flow across with an assurance of an equitable share of the waters. More dams upstream, for instance, by India together with the existing ones would mark a process that will only widen the margin of deprivation for Bangladesh and of persistence in a process of wrong-doing to a neighbour that means no wrong.

Construction of reservoirs in the mountain gorges of Nepal which Nepal welcomes as a mark of unstinted cooperation between the neighbours is a feasible answer. This or any other ways of ending the dispute should come without further exercises in futile meetings without results. But precious little is likely to come off without the leverage of good will from the Indian leadership trying to think and act a little boldly, greatly—and humanly.

INDIA

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTED TO IGNORE OWN R&D

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Mar 85 p 6

[text]

A highly sophisticated navigation system for armoured vehicles, developed indigenously, has been put into cold storage and the Defence Ministry has suddenly decided to call foreign suppliers for trials of similar equipment, reports UNI.

The Gyro Land Navigation System (GLNS), which consists of a gyro compass, a computer and read-outs for the crew, was jointly developed by the Research and Development organisation of the Ministry of Defence and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

According to defence experts, the cost of a comparable system as offered by foreign suppliers was at least twice that of the Indian system. The Government's decision would be a "severe blow to our own development system", they contend.

The navigation system was developed over a span of three years by a young and dedicated Indian team.

According to HAL sources, the Indian system does not suffer from any drawbacks. They say their equipment has time and again demonstrated its capability. In this case, the experts had achieved complete accuracy, well up to the qualitative requirement (QR) set by the Indian Army. The system, now fully developed had been subjected to extensive acceptance trials in 1981-82.

"This is not to say that we must blindly opt for an equipment only because it has been developed indigenously as this will adversely affect the operational performance of our fighting forces", the experts say. "But where an equipment holds its own on both technical and financial grounds it must be encouraged, because from its present state will emerge improvements and that is what technological development is all about".

About a year ago, HAL received what amounted to a letter of intent from the Defence Ministry. But repeated enquiries for funding commencement of production were met with vague replies. Then all of a sudden the Ministry decided to call foreign suppliers for trials, a process that would result in a delay of about two years, the sources said.

They said that they might be ultimately asked to commence production two years hence. But by then prices would have risen, production planning stand outdated and the concerned personnel may have been employed elsewhere.

The sources said this ran contrary to the encouragement Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was giving to the Indian industry to achieve a quantum jump in attaining self-sufficiency in high technology fields.

CSO: 4600/1418

INDIA

FOREIGN SECRETARY SPEAKS ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11--The Foreign Secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, today decried the reluctance of rich countries to initiate, in cooperation with the developing nations concerted action to correct the imbalances in the world economy, reports PTI.

Though the world was interdependent, the developed countries were unwilling to recognize this fact, he said inaugurating a workshop on "South-South Cooperation: Role of Indian Business" organized by FICCI.

Mr Bhandari said the movement for South-South Cooperation had come of age and what was needed now was realistic programmes to get concrete results.

Mr Bhandari said the developing countries should devise action-oriented programmes. Mere convening of meetings and passing resolutions was not the pragmatic solution to the problem, he added.

he warned that food would become a serious problem by the turn of the century. The developing countries could cooperate fruitfully in this area as they had the potential and knowhow to increase food production, he said.

Mr Bhandari stressed the need for stepping up cooperation in science and technology among the developing countries. This would help in avoiding indiscriminate import of this knowhow from the rich, he added.

The Foreign Secretary noted that a major hurdle in South-South cooperation was sharing and dissemination of information on each other's capabilities. India should have its own programme and organization to fill the gap, he suggested.

In his valedictory address, Mr Abid Hussain, member of the Planning Commission, emphasized the need for achieving alround excellence in products and services to match those of developed countries.

For this to come about, there should be competition among the developing countries, eh added.

Mr Hussain appealed to the Indian businessmen not to have "balance sheet approach" to development.

Earlier Professor A. M. Khusro, former Planning Commission member, said businessmen should not depend on the Government to do everything.

The Commerce Secretary, Mr Prem Kumar, said the current world situation was more conducive to mutual trade among developing countries, Indian entrepreneurs' relationship with other developing countries should be one of partnership and not exploitative in nature.

CSO: 4600/1420

INDIA

GORBACHEV NOT EXPECTED TO CHANGE POLICY ON INDIA

Madra THE HINDU in English 12 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11--The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, will head the Indian delegation that will be flying to Moscow to attend the funeral of the Soviet President, Konstantin Chernenko, who died yesterday after a spell of only 13 months in his dual role as head of the party and the Government.

The Government of India will be observing State mourning from tomorrow til Wednesday afternoon, the day of the funeral.

The President, Mr. Zail Singh, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, have sent condolence messages to the Soviet leadership on behalf of the Government and people of India mourning the death of Chernenko. They will be calling at the Soviet embassy in Delhi tomorrow to sign the condolence register and personally convey their deep sorrow to the Soviet Government.

The visit of the Defence Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, who was due to leave for Moscow tomorrow, has been postponed for the present. The previous Defence Minister, Mr. S. B. Chavan, who was in Moscow on October 31 had to cut short his visit and fly back to India following Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The death of three Soviet Presidents--Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko--within a span of two years and four months has evidently influenced the decision to select a younger leader like Mr. Michael Gorbachev to succeed Chernenko as the General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, so that he could look forward to a long spell of office which provides for both stability and continuity in the Soviet system.

From India's point of view, there will be no difference in the Soviet policy of friendship and cooperation with it, no matter who is at the helm in the Kremlin. Through Andropov and Chernenko had no personal contact with the Indian leaders before they emerged at the top of the Soviet power structure, the two leaders like their predecessor, Brezhnev adhered to the established policy of close friendship with India.

So there is not likely to be any change in the Soviet attitude under the new dispensation. As Andropov and Chernenko went out of their way to confer with

Indira Gandhi for over an hour during her last visits to Moscow on the two sad occasions, Mr. Gorbachev and his younger colleagues are bound to show the same special consideration when Mr. Rajiv Gandji meets them.

The last of the Soviet old guard like the present Prime Minister, Mr. Nikolai Tikhanov, the first Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, and the Foreign Trade Minister, Mr. I. V. Arkhipov, who have had closer associations with India, will be there in the new Soviet Government. But India expects the new Kremlin group headed by Mr. Gorbachev to display greater flexibility in the conduct of Soviet foreign policy.

The Government is considering a suggestion to adjourn the two Houses of Parliament on Wednesday as a mark of respect to the memory of the Soviet leader following past precedents.

CSO: 4600/1421

INDIA

REPORTER INTERVIEWS AKALI DAL PRESIDENT LONGOWAL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Akali Dal president Harchand Singh Longowal on Tuesday ruled out talks with the Centre unless the Anandpur Sahib resolution was accepted and all those detained after Operation Bluestar were released.

Mr Longowal, was one amongst the many leaders released on Tuesday. He was detained in the Rajasthan State Electricity Board guest house in Udaipur and was brought to the Capital by a special plane on Tuesday afternoon.

In a brief interview with this reporter, Mr Longowal, looking relaxed and cool, said that he would first visit the Golden Temple on Wednesday morning and then decide the strategy of the Akali Dal as to how to restore normalcy in the State.

Earlier, his habeas corpus and petition challenging the amended National Security Act was dismissed as infructuous by the Supreme Court. "I would have got the release from the court but the Government released me of its own to save itself from that embarrassment", he said.

During the nine-month detention, he says, he was kept in darkness about the happenings in the country and particularly in Punjab. "I was kept in a room measuring 10 feet by 10 feet with heavy security bandobust around. There was no regular supply of newspapers and a radio was also denied to him--How do I know about the happenings outside?", he asked.

Proposals: What proposals he has for arriving at a peaceful and acceptable solution of the Punjab problem? The problem, he said could be sorted out only if the Government agree to release several thousand Akali activists, including members of the Sikh Students Federation along with senior leaders such as Mr Parkash Singh Badal and Mr G S Tohra whom he describes as "honest and sincere" leaders. The Akali Dal has and had been demanding the acceptance of the Anandpur Sahib resolution since Master Tara Singh's days. But nothing was done.

Also, the Dal had also been demanding a high level enquiry, preferably by a judge of the Supreme Court to probe into the increasing extremism in the State, but the inquiry was "intentionally" evaded for it might cause great embarrassment to the Government, he said.

Does he feel that such an inquiry would be ordered now? To this he says how can "we believe the Government". The Government should first order an inquiry into the recent carnage in which several hundred persons were killed, property worth crores damaged or destroyed and several thousand innocents were rendered homeless. The Government should also pay adequate compensation to their victims.

Priests' role: Sikhs always stood for national unity and integrity and even joined Mahatma Gandhi in his struggle for communal harmony. "How can they be described as anti-national or against any community--We are all brothers", he said.

On the Sikh high priests, Mr Longowal says the high priests are the pillars and backbone of Sikhism and always guided the masses in the absence of leadership as was done in the recent past when all the leaders were sent behind the bars. "Their role was highly commendable".

Delhi Akali Dal leader Bakshi Jagdev Singh has also welcomed the release of the leaders.

CSO: 4600/1422

1 May 1985

INDIA

CPI-M ISSUES STATEMENT AFTER 8-9 MAR POLITBURO MEETING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 11--The politburo of the CPI (M), which met here on March 8 and 9, expressed its happiness over the defeat of the Congress (I) in the Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, and Sikkim and also over the rejection by the people of the Prime Minister's appeal for Congress monopoly of power at the Centre and in the States, an appeal which was in line with the "authoritarian" outlook of the ruling party.

The politburo statement said the election results showed that people were recovering from the shock following the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Having expressed their concern for national unity in the Lok Sabha poll and voted for the Congress (I) they were now ready to make their choice on the basis of the performance and promises of the ruling party at the Centre. This made all the differences between the December and March elections.

The CPI (M) general secretary, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, said the disunity among the Left parties inevitably led to the polarization of the electorate between the ruling and Opposition parties.

At the meeting of the politburo, the rival CPI was severely criticized by the Marxist leadership for its "insensate electoral ambitions" which, it was alleged, destroyed all chances of Left unity. For instance, it was pointed out, in Bihar the CPI stand and tactics undermined Opposition unity and also unity with the CPI (M) State unit. The CPI tactics only split the Opposition vote, harmed the advance of the Left forces and reduced Left representation in the State Assemblies, the CPI (M) politburo said.

The CPI (M) politburo felt there had been further deterioration in the situation in Punjab despite the repeated assurances of the Prime Minister to settle the problem. The Akali leaders' inability to take a firm stand against the secessionist, their endorsement of the Anandpur Sahib resolution and their readiness to organize the defence of hijackers in Pakistan must cause deep concern to all.

CSO: 4600/1420

INDIA

EXPECTATIONS FROM PAKISTAN DEVELOPMENTS TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 10--The proposed resumption of the Indo-Pakistan dialogue is being delayed by the inordinately long time that Gen. Zia-Ul-Haq is talking in completing the electoral process in Pakistan and forming his new government.

The new Pakistan Cabinet, if it can be called as such, is expected to be inducted into office with the appointment of a Prime Minister only in the third week of this month, before the new National Assembly meets on March 23 for its first session.

So it is unlikely now that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan, Mr. Romesh Bhandari and Mr. Niaz Naik, will be able to meet before the end of this month, as intended earlier, because of this delay in the formation of the new Cabinet in Pakistan.

Though for all practical purpose Gen. Zia will continue to be the real boss in his dual capacity as an "elected President and self-appointed head of the martial law regime, he is evidently keen on these cosmetic changes in the political complexion of his regime to provide some semblance of a representative character to his government. It is for this reason that he has not been in any great hurry to resume the dialogue with India before completing this process in Pakistan.

The current expectation, therefore, is that the stalled dialogue on no-war pact and other interrelated issues of normalisation is likely to take place towards the end of April, although the two Foreign Secretaries will have an opportunity to meet during the ministerial meeting of the coordination bureau of the non-aligned nations due to be held from April 16 to 19 in Delhi. They will be meeting again in early May when Mr. Naik passes through Delhi on his way to Bhutan for the Foreign Ministers' meeting on South Asian regional cooperation.

The Government of India is waiting for more tangible evidence of the Pakistani desire for a resumption of this dialogue before determining the nature of its

own response to the new overtures for better relations. It has been noted with some satisfaction that there has lately been a decrease in the degree of Pakistani involvement in the Punjab situation.

At the same time Gen. Zia has started accusing India of secretly training Al-Zulfiqar terrorists as though to justify the clandestine support Pakistan has been extending to the Sikh extremists in their violent campaign to propagate Khalistan.

But there has also been a marked slow-down to the point of virtual suspension of the virulent anti-Indian campaign in the Pakistan press and over radio and television, which was worked up to a hysterical pitch in the wake of the Punjab crisis last year.

The Government of India is also waiting to see what sort of charge-sheet the Pakistan authorities are going to file against the hijackers who are being placed on trial at long last, whether the protagonists of Khalistan operating from abroad would be permitted to transform this into a replica of the I.N.A. trial in 1945 to propagate the right of the so-called subject people to rise in "revolt" to free themselves from subjugation.

It is known in Delhi that the U.S. has been urging the Zia regime to give up its unfriendly attitude towards India and strive for better understanding in its own interest. Consequently, there has been a noticeable change in recent weeks in Pakistan's postures, followed by renewed overtures for a resumption of the no-war dialogue soon.

The U.S. Under Secretary of State for political affairs, Mr. Michael Armacost, will be visiting Islamabad and Delhi in the course of the next few days for talks on both regional and bilateral issues. The Government of India would be interested in his assessment of the current thinking in Islamabad on Indo-Pakistan relations, how far the Zia regime would be prepared to go in shedding its animosities and striving for a better accord in a genuine spirit of mutually beneficial bilateralism.

Reel initiative: The real initiative for an Indo-Pakistan rapprochement must come from Washington, since there is very little that Delhi or Islamabad can do on their own to reverse the current confrontationist trends, so long as the U.S. continues to pursue the policy of intensifying an arms race in the sub-continent. An essential first step towards any improvement in Indo-Pakistan relations has to be a clear and unequivocal commitment by the U.S. not to supply any more arms to Pakistan beyond what, has already been given that can meet its legitimate defence requirements.

CSO: 4600/1417

IRAN

KHAMENE'I: WE WILL ERADICATE ALL ROOTS OF CORRUPTION IN KORDESTAN

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 28 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Tehran—ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday at a meeting with a group of Kurdish Muslim warriors, the President of the Republic said: Through the grace of God, and by your hands, we will uproot all corruption in Kordestan.

During this meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Haydar, the Imam's representative in the revolutionary guard of Kordestan, gave a short report. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam va-ol-Moslemin Khamene'i addressed himself in a speech to the warriors of Kordestan. He said: You Kurdish brothers have hit world imperialism so hard that their heads are still spinning; it is still too early for us to be able to assess the importance of these blows.

It will not be long before it will become clear to the world, with the victories of the Muslim nation of Iran, how the fists of the people of Kordestan have answered world imperialism's greed and nonsense.

The President of the Republic then discussed the nature of world imperialism's relationship with counterrevolutionary elements. He said: The counterrevolution and the mini-groups, who operate as the germs of imperialism, are like clever insects and germs that grow in fetid environments: they operate in environments where purity, brotherhood, and unity do not exist. World imperialism, led by America, has therefore tried from the beginning to eliminate the pure environment which the revolution created among the people.

The Islamic revolution united our slogans and brought our hearts close together. The tumult of the revolution brought down those walls separating the Iranian nation, and the people felt unified. It is clear that in the revolutionary environment the germs of imperialist plots have had no place to grow: imperialism had to eliminate the purity, kindness, and unity between the people. This is why they raised the issue of ethnic groups, and tried to disrupt the people's unity by using the Kurds, the people of Fars, the Turks, the Arabs, the Lors, the Baluchis, and the Torkomans, or else the issue of Sunnis and Shi'ites. If they had been successful, they would not have stopped with the issue of Shi'ites and Sunnis: they would have raised disunifying issues even within these large groups, such as the matter of the differences between the Shafi'is and the Hanafis among the Sunnis, or the matter of the differences between those among the Shi'ites who follow various theological exemplars. The goal of these activities was to disrupt the people's unity and create a feeling of disunity in the nation in the interest of world imperialism, and unfortunately a number of people fell into these traps.

The Chief of the Supreme Defense Council then said: In the years 1359 and 1360 [21 March 1980 — 20 March 1982] when I came to Kordestan I heard myself that there were people in the counterrevolution who knew no Kurdish whatsoever and were not Kurds. They fought with the people on the orders of their masters. Early in the revolution, the Americans and their agents, the same ones who presented themselves as advocates of the Kurdish people in various guises, had the same goals, but they were foiled by the native Kurdish forces for Truth. These people showed that they are loyal to their country, their revolution, and to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was a great blow to the breast of the enemy. The counterrevolutionary groups, with various counterrevolutionary methods, claimed to be speaking the language of the Kurdish people and to be defending their rights, but the Kurdish people showed that they considered them outsiders.

The president then discussed what makes unity in the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Through the grace of God, we have been able to solve the problem of Shi'ites and Sunnis in our country; we are all united with one intention under the same leader against a common enemy. There are no divisions among the officials of the Islamic republic in Sanandaj, Esfahan, Mehabad, Kamyaran, Mashhad, Tehran, and other cities. The government of the Islamic republic makes no distinction between Arabs, Lors, or Torkomans. They are all the foundation of our revolution, and we are indebted to all of them. Noting that the Islamic Republic of Iran will welcome the return of all deluded people and counterrevolutionaries, provided they sincerely repent, the president said:

Today many have realized that Satanic activities have no effect on the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is affiliated with a divine power and is backed by the flowing power of the people. The mercenary counterrevolutionaries are so immersed in treason that they cannot save themselves, like those who are waiting in ambush in some areas to hurt innocent people. They cannot hope to have their lives perpetuated by world imperialism, because world imperialism will not take care of them. Historical experience and my personal observations have shown that the mini-groups and mercenaries who have committed treason against their land will never have dignity again and will always be disgraced and deprived.

In another part of his speech, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is today the proudest nation in the world, and it can declare absolutely that it is not under the influence of East or West; this matter is always before us in our political and economic relations with the nations of the world. We will establish political and economic relations wherever the interests of our nation require it. Today, even the Western European governments are complaining about American interference in their affairs. If America makes a decision, many advanced industrialized European nations are forced to follow, but do not pay any attention to America or the Soviet Union in the slightest matter. In our foreign policy and in our international relations we act in the language of Islam, with inspiration from the Koran, and the example of the precious Prophet of Islam. We have fought for six years in the midst of fearsome storms, but after six years we are stronger, more firmly rooted, prouder, more exasperating to our enemies, and more pleasing to our friends. As an independent power, upon whom the East and the West can impose nothing, from whom no tolls can be exacted by America and the Soviet Union, will we pay tolls to the mini-groups, who must beg from the agents of world imperialism for the slightest thing?

Through the grace of God, by the hands of you dear combatants, and with the help of the nation of Iran, we will pull up all the roots of corruption in Kordestan. You youths must prepare yourselves for a peaceful and delightful future, so that you will be able to build your cities and villages and rebuild life anew. The president then warned educational officials and students about the counterrevolution among young people. Concerning the state of the counterrevolution in

Kordestan, he said: These traitors have taken it in the teeth everywhere. The fact that these mercenaries attack a village full of old women and men and kill them for the crime of ignoring their propaganda is nothing to be proud of: this is helplessness and impotence for the counterrevolution. Having exhausted their resources, they cling to the hope that they will be able to enter the pure heaven of the students, and school officials must watch for their influence.

9310

CSO: 4640-490

IRAN

VELAYATI: MARTYRDOM NECESSARY TO CONFRONT OCCUPIERS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 3 Mar 85 p 2

[Text] ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY—At a gathering of ambassadors and chargés d'affaires in Iran from Islamic countries yesterday morning, our country's foreign minister discussed Iran's position on recent changes in Lebanon and the withdrawal of occupying Zionist forces from that country.

With regard to this, Velayati said: We must make use of Islamic characteristics and the Muslim desire for martyrdom to confront occupying forces, and take steps toward a decisive solution to the problem of Israel, whose essence is Satanic and oppressive; it is natural that we must not stop at the frontiers of Lebanon. He said: The combative Muslim people of Lebanon, the Palestinian combatants, and the Muslims of occupied and Syrian lands have been singled out without help as the targets of this terrorism from usurper Israel; they are therefore in need of Islamic and Arab motivation. After occupying Lebanon, Israel has withdrawn in three phases, from the Hawmah Heights of Beirut, from Shuf and 'Alieh of Beirut, and finally from Sidon and the 'Alayh

The first and second withdrawals were done in self-interest—out of fear of creating popular and Islamic resistance—with the granting of a concession and finally for the purpose of creating and intensifying domestic and ethnic conflicts.

The withdrawal, or flight, from Sidon, on the other hand, was done because of Islamic resistance and a resultant increase in Israeli casualties. There were not many days when the Israelis did not suffer several casualties, and this had an extraordinary negative effect on the fabric of Israeli society, because of the suicidal operations against the Israeli intelligence center in Syria, the American Marine base, and French paratroopers in Beirut, or the operations that took place every day throughout the occupation.

The Foreign Minister then discussed Israel's fear of the growth of Islamic opposition and the martyr-seeking Muslims of Lebanon, as well as the fear of America and Western countries supporting Israel. He said: The aggregate of resistance and anti-Zionist measures have shown that the element of resistance has grown in other parts of occupied Lebanon and in all occupied territory, especially in West Karaneh, and it appears that it will be a decisive factor for solving the Palestinian question. This is one of the reasons for Israel's fear, and this self-centered regime's crazed reactions; this fear of Islamic resistance has even taken hold of America and other Western countries supporting Israel, because they have supported these Israeli crimes with their silence.

Islamic resistance ripened and grew at a time when arms had been laid down by those claiming to fight Israel, and the Arab and Islamic world was deluded by this Western belief. The idea that the Palestinian question can be solved through negotiations while maintaining the existence of Israel is based on the belief that compromising solutions and a race to compromise with Israel had appeared in the Arab world, and most of them had turned to political solutions.

It was under these conditions that the Islamic resistance of Lebanon invalidated these solutions, and showed those who had accepted the shameful Camp David Accords and other similar solutions that that the only way to confront Israeli aggression and attain the legitimate rights of a nation is armed and Islamic struggle. The solution to the Palestinian problem and to the attainment of the lawful rights of the deprived Palestinian people is therefore this same tested method and practical victory.

First of all, they consider this way of dealing with the issue impossible to accept along with the existence of a country called Israel.

Secondly, the resistance believes in fighting and confronting all Zionism in the world, and its weapons are the desire for martyrdom and the sacrifice of life.

Dr Velayati then discussed the results of the regime occupying Jerusalem's defeat in Lebanon, and the terror that it showed in trying to make up for this defeat. He then said:

The world of Islam and the Arab world are going through difficult days and sensitive moments. We need a comprehensive and all-encompassing movement. Just as we have always declared our readiness to liberate dear Jerusalem and to confront usurper Israel, we now vigorously condemn these savage acts of Israel in southern Lebanon; we consider the silence of America and the other Western countries to be in support of these acts. We call upon the world to open its mouth and condemn these acts, and to take a serious step to prevent them.

9310

CSO: 4640:490

1 May 1985

IRAN

EFFECTS OF SOUTHERN LEBANON LIBERATION ON REGION EXAMINED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 6 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] Only armed resistance in southern Lebanon caused Israel to withdraw from the Sidon area. This is something upon which all the people, political parties, and Lebanese political groups, with varying and conflicting leanings, agree.

The defeated Zionist army, after 22 months of occupying southern Lebanon, has been forced to flee Lebanon in order to reduce its casualties and costs. Could a classically organized army or movements whose leaders are embroiled in political intrigues have driven the occupiers out? The answer can only be found in an armed people's movement advancing on the basis of Islamic teachings. Despite the efforts of various groups and parties in the past to say that their members have participated in the resistance in southern Lebanon, the fact that the leadership of the movement, and the composition and organization of the revolutionary guerilla cells of the Muslims were never quite clear kept them from ever falling into the trap of political negotiations and the exchange of concessions.

In any case, now, after two and one-half years of struggle against the occupiers and their mercenaries, the efforts and the crusading of the Muslim people of southern Lebanon have borne fruit and the enemy has fled without achieving any of his objectives. Israel attacked Lebanon two and one-half years ago nominally to achieve security for the Galilee area and northern Occupied Palestine, but in reality it was pursuing three main goals:

First goal: To destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization and to eliminate the presence of Palestinians in Lebanon.

Second goal: To dominate Lebanese political affairs and install a pro-Israel government in Beirut.

Finally, the third goal was to sign a peace treaty with Lebanon as the second Arab country after Egypt and to permanently occupy the south of this country with the agreement of the Lebanese government and the utilization of the natural resources there.

During the first year of the invasion it appeared that the Zionist regime had succeeded in attaining its goals, because only three months after the occupation of Lebanon and the concentration of Zionist forces behind the gates of Beirut, Yasser Arafat and several thousand Palestinian guerillas left Beirut on the basis of Phillip Habib's promises and commitments and went to Greece on a ship. Before that, American, French, British, and Italian forces deployed on the coasts of Beirut. Under these circumstances, Bashir Gemayel, one of Israel's biggest supporters in Lebanon, was elected to the presidency by the Majlis under pressure and duress. He was soon assassinated.

however. After that, Israeli and Phalangist forces and those of Sa'd Haddad poured into West Beirut and committed unprecedented crimes with the killing of Palestinian refugees in Sabra and Chatila. Then the international forces, who had left Lebanon prior to this slaughter, again deployed on the coasts and two months later Amin Gemayel was elected President of Lebanon.

The year 1982, the first year of the invasion, was almost over, but Muslim revolutionaries began taking measures against the occupiers and killed more than 100 Zionists by blowing up the Israeli army command post in Sur. The year 1983 began, and Islamic resistance in Lebanon spread. In April the American imperialist embassy was blown up, leaving 63 Americans dead.

At this time, the Zionist regime, with America's help, was seeking to achieve its third goal, the signing of an agreement with Lebanon. Finally, on 18 May, with shuttling by Shultz, the American Secretary of State, this agreement, which was called Camp David Two, was signed in Khaldah Lebanon and al-Khalisah of occupied Palestine.

One month later, the Israelis, who considered themselves completely victorious, withdrew to the south from the areas north of the al-Awwali River, that is southern Beirut and the central mountains of Lebanon. This happiness for them, and for the Americans, Westerners, and finally for some political parties and Lebanese politicians did not last long. The Lebanese Muslims showed that they had made and sworn to a decision to expel the international forces and nullify the 17 May agreement.

With the explosion at the American marine compound and shortly thereafter at the French paratrooper compound, more than 241 Americans and 58 Frenchmen were killed. The dust from this had not yet settled when the Israeli forces command post in Sur was blown up again and a large number of Zionists were killed.

A new page was thus written in the book of Lebanese history, and the occupiers, who until that day had considered themselves at liberty to do as they pleased, were now forced to think of their future.

The year 1984 must be considered the year when the defeat of the international forces and Israel in tying up Lebanon became completely clear. The first two months of the year had not yet passed when the American soldiers fled Beirut and the French subsequently followed suit. In the third month the government of Lebanon under pressure from Lebanese Islamic and national forces and the activities of the Syrian government, abrogated the 17 May agreement and the first powerful slap in the face was delivered to America and Israel. It was now clear that they could not remain in Lebanon.

In the parliamentary elections for occupied Palestine, which were held after the installation of the new cabinet in Lebanon, the Labor Party won under the slogan "Get out of Lebanon."

Now, in 1985, the Zionist regime, hopeless and defeated, has decided to withdraw from Lebanon. The results of this war were much more costly for Israel than anticipated; more importantly, none of Israel's goals in invading Lebanon were permanently achieved.

First of all, the Palestine Liberation Organization was not only not eliminated, but new tendencies have emerged within it in opposition to Arafat's compromising line.

Secondly, the Zionist regime not only failed to install a pro-Israel government in Beirut, but in the new cabinet, a new ministry has been created which was initially called the Ministry of the South, and then renamed the Ministry of Resistance.

Finally, not only was the 17 May agreement nullified, and the leaning to Israel replaced by a leaning to Syria and progressive forces, but world opinion was also completely aroused against the occupation of Lebanon.

Apart from these three primary goals, none of which were achieved, even now Israeli army commanders and the Minister of War admit that they can no longer guarantee the complete security of the Galilee area.

The conditions which have now appeared will clearly have an effect on overall views of the area and domestic tendencies in various Middle Eastern countries. The first complaint against the Zionists, which came from within their own ranks, was that withdrawal operations took place on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, but clearly the withdrawal, or flight, from Lebanon will have deep effects on Israel's society and army. More important than this, however, Yasser Arafat, King Hussein, Hosni Mobarak, and others who were holding the reigns of Palestine and pulling this way and that will likely move more quickly in the face of the Muslim revolutionaries of Lebanon, because they understand well that the resistance in southern Lebanon is a great lesson for the current generation of Palestinians. The Muslim youth of Palestine will once again rise up in resistance in the manner of their brothers in Lebanon.

Despite this, one must be fully vigilant and aware. Israel still holds one-fifth of Lebanon's territory; current political developments in the area in the hands of reactionaries, especially the alliance between King Hussein and Arafat, and finally the alliances with America and the Soviets, and especially the forthcoming Vienna talks, all illustrate these new plots.

Muslim resistance in southern Lebanon, however, and the destruction of the Zionists will always keep the hope alive that a new era has been launched in developments in the area. Yesterday, Sidon was liberated. Tomorrow it will be all of southern Lebanon and then the spread of Islamic and people's struggles will be completely clear.

The Liberation of Sidon

The Muslim people of Sidon, the center of southern Lebanon, have celebrated the liberation of themselves and their city from the occupation of Zionists and mercenaries.

In the first stage of their flight from southern Lebanon, Israeli forces finally evacuated the city of Sidon, and moved their forces to points further south in the eastern region. Yet there is still a part of the Zionist army at part of the al-Awwali River in northern Sidon, which is especially watchful around the 'Ilman bridge. Finally, after two trucks were disabled on this bridge, they closed it for practical purposes.

On the other hand, the police and the gendarmes of Lebanon have gradually taken control of Sidon in order to gradually open the way for a final army occupation. It is necessary to mention that Lebanese army personnel were deployed north of the al-Awwali River about a month ago.

The first stage of the Zionist army's withdrawal, or, better, its flight, is scheduled to be completed late in the month of Bahmah [21 Jan - 19 Feb], and the occupiers will deploy in the **al-Biqā'** area and southern Lebanon to the Litani River. After that, the second stage will be implemented, when the **al-Biqā'** will be completely evacuated. Estimates are that the second stage will involve a three-to five-month occupation.

The Israeli occupying forces have now withdrawn from the city of Sidon. After that the mercenary forces, or what is known as the Army of Southern Lebanon, will also prefer flight to remaining, because they know that they can continue to survive only with Israeli protection. If this support disappears, the Muslim revolutionaries will descend upon the occupiers and try them in revolutionary trials for collaborating with Israel.

In this midst of this, a Zionist officer has admitted that a great many members of the Army of Southern Lebanon have left it. Antoine Lahad, commander of this army, will be obliged to remain only the southern border area, the area once controlled by Sa'd Haddad prior to the invasion of Lebanon. In any case, although mercenary forces have confronted the heedless attacks of Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries every day, it is clear that from now on things will be much more difficult for them. In the first important step, in the first few minutes of an attack on a base held by Antoine Lahad's people in the little city of Ansar in the area, the Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries not only succeeded in dealing effective blows, but they captured twelve of them.

In any case, a comprehensive look makes it fully clear that the only reason for the flight of the Israelis and their mercenaries from Lebanon was the severe and persistent resistance of Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries.

The Zionist regime, which attacked Lebanon to eliminate the PLO, install a pro-Israel government there, and finally to permanently occupy the south of this country, never imagined that factors would develop that it had never anticipated, and that it would not only fail to achieve its goals, but would be forced to flee in disgrace. Recently the Israeli Minister of War, appearing before the Zionist regime's parliament, in order to persuade the deputies to give the government sufficient resources for the withdrawal, admitted: 90 percent of the operations against Israel in southern Lebanon are being carried out by Shi'ites. Our military invasion of Lebanon has become a war between the Shi'ites and Israel, the continuation of which is of absolutely no benefit to us."

Finally, we will cite a Tunisian newspaper article, which said to the Palestinians:

Resistance in southern Lebanon will prove itself to the Palestinians to be the only way to bring Israel to its knees, and any amount of this brought against Israeli forces by the Lebanese is better than a thousand Palestinian political maneuvers.

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CSO: 4640/505

IRAN

SOUTHERN LEBANON MUSLIMS ANNOUNCE GENERAL MOBILIZATION

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 9 Mar 85 p 20

[Text] Sidon—News Agencies—Reports are that Muslim combatants in the liberated area of Sidon are preparing operations against Israel, but the government army of Lebanon is standing in their way.

Following the flight of the Zionist army from the city of Sidon in southern Lebanon, in the last few days Muslims have punished many former Zionist collaborators with revolutionary execution.

After leaving Sidon, the Zionists are positioned nearby, and it is not a remote possibility that they will attack the city in an insane move.

A Call for General Mobilization

Nabih Birri chief of the Shi'ite Amal movement, called for a general mobilization against the Zionist army after Saturday's attacks by the Israeli army against four villages in southern Lebanon. According to Timur Guskell, spokesman for the United Nations, Israeli forces blocked the roads to the villages of Tura, Burj Rahhal, Bidyas and Yanuh all of which are centers of resistance under Amal leadership, and attacked these villages.

The Zionist regime, as usual, in order to justify its crimes, announced that these measures took place following guerilla activities against them.

Saturday, Nabih Birri said: Local schools will be closed until further notice, and students will submit their reports in accordance with a secret plan. He called upon the youth of southern Lebanon not to leave areas that are not yet under Israeli occupation. Last week the Zionist regime was forced to evacuate the Sidon area and took casualties in so doing.

According to REUTERS, quoting Lebanese security sources, Israeli forces detained inhabitants of surrounded villages for questioning. At Borj Rahhal and Tura there are now only a few residents present, and there is no information of the fate of the others.

Nabih Birri said: Israel is expelling Muslims from the area and sowing discord in order to justify the settlement of Christians along the northern border strip of Palestine. He said: Since Thursday, Israel has expelled 400 people to Beirut. He called upon all those who collaborate with

In Sidon the body of a man was found with a message on his chest from the Lebanese national resistance that read: This is the punishment of someone who sold his land and his honor to Israeli intelligence.

The United Nations Spokesman said: At seven in the morning on Saturday Israeli forces first attacked the Muslim villagers of Burj Rahhal and Tura with infantry and armor, and then directed their attack to villages adjacent to these two, Bidyas and Yanuh.

Method of Attacking Villages

In a descriptive report from the village of Burj Rahhal, which was attacked Saturday by occupying Zionist forces, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE wrote: On Saturday from the village square of 'Abbasiyah adjacent to the village of Burj Rahhal, residents watched Zionist operations. Above the village of Rahhal, two army helicopters were busy killing. A Young woman in a chador said happily:

This is the end for Israel. They must go. Meanwhile an Israeli soldier, pointing his weapon at the villagers, said: Entry into Burj Rahhal is prohibited; whoever enters the village will be killed.

The correspondent from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE added that Muslim revolutionaries had told him: The more the strikes increase, the more we will attack. Before the Israelis put their iron hands into their iron boxing gloves, we were carrying out two or three operations a day; now, however, last night alone we carried out 11 operations.

One of them said: In Qolabeh we used mortars against the Zionists, but we still haven't even begun.

Disrespect for Islamic Shrines

The British newspaper THE GUARDIAN reported Muslim attacks in southern Lebanon and the killing of an Israeli major and a warrant officer by explosions in Bazuriah early last week. It wrote: Now that the Israelis have become severely frightened of Shi'ite attacks in southern Lebanon, they are trying to intensify their control and pressure over the Muslims with more harsh measures.

This newspaper then added: For example, last week Israeli troops again attacked the mountain city of Bazuriah, near the city of Sur, released police dogs in the mosques and Muslim theaters of this city, and played loud music over the mosque loudspeakers.

This newspaper added: Israeli soldiers then tore pages from the (Glorious) Koran and looted the mosque collection boxes.

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CSO: 4640/506

IRAN

LEBANESE MUSLIM LEADER WARNS ABOUT DOLLAR BOYCOTT

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 9 Mar 85 p 20

[Text] Tehran—Central News Unit—‘Alameh Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah said today that the Lebanese clergy may soon be forced to issue a religious decree that forbids dealing in American dollars.

According to the Central News Unit, Sheikh Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah, a Muslim leader in Lebanon, said in connection with the increased price of the dollar:

This increase has reached a point that dealing in dollars is nearly to the point of being sinful.

During the last nine months the price of the dollar has increased eight fold, while Lebanon buys 75 percent of its consumer imports with dollars.

‘Alameh Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah, one of the combative clergy of Lebanon, said: The acts of the Lebanese government are ultimately in conformity with the desires of the occupying regime of Jerusalem.

Speaking at a meeting of the Muslim Student Union of Lebanon, he said: The political situation in Lebanon is such that there is no possibility of profoundly confronting Israel, because the Lebanese government still believes it necessary to maintain privileges for parties and factions, of which the Christians are one.

Continuing his talks, he called for a change in the existing political situation in Lebanon, basing it on Islam, and changing prevailing circumstances in the area.

In another part of his talk, ‘Alameh Fazlollah attacked America’s policy of supporting Israel. He said: It would be very naive of us to think that America, having obtained a few papers, would overlook turning the area into a protected zone for itself and Israel.

Sheikh Hoseyn Fazlollah also said in an interview: Our aim is to awaken the Islamic conscience of the people; we are not in favor of force, but we consider the use of force acceptable when the enemy directs harsh measures and attacks at us, and we consider it our right to use force in order to eliminate the enemy.

Yesterday the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA printed an interview its correspondents had held with ‘Alameh Sheikh Hoseyn Fazlollah in Lebanon.

Picture of Emam Khomeyni

In the article, the newspaper's correspondent wrote: Sheikh Mohammad Hoseyn Fazlollah, a powerful Lebanese leader, received us in a room with a picture of Emam Khomeyni on the wall and answered our questions. Sheikh Fazlollah, who has just returned from a trip to Iran, was asked whether he was able to see the Imam on this trip. He said: My trip to Iran was made for religious reasons, and Emam Khomeyni did not have an opportunity to meet with me.

He was asked whether it is true that he is the leader of a group of Lebanese Partisans of God. He said: This propaganda exists because I am opposed to American imperialism and corruption in Lebanon, and my ideas conform to the Islamic revolution of Iran. I am not the leader of a special group. Our goal is to awaken the Islamic conscience of the people. We are not fanatics at all, and we do not favor the use of force, but we consider it acceptable and our right to use force to destroy the enemy who attacks us with the use of harsh measures.

He added: Our aim is to establish divine and liberating Islamic law for all the people, Muslim, Christian, and Jewish, because we believe that only these laws will establish justice in the world. We will not establish it through force and severity, however; it will be entirely subject to the free choice of the people of Lebanon.

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CSO: 4640/506

IRAN

EXTENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN HEAVY INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED

Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Mar 85 pp 1-5

[Text] The level of private sector participation in heavy industry has been announced in a statement from the Ministry of Heavy Industry. According to this report, from the beginning of the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] until 1 Bahman of 1363 [21 January 1985] a total of 4,197 agreements in principle with fixed capital of more than 100.8 billion rials were issued. Of this quantity, 124.2 billion rials were allocated to the private sector, which amounts to 80 percent of all new capital investment in heavy industry.

Of all approved investment in the period mentioned, around 31 percent came from relatively large investments, that is fixed capital of more than 500 million rials. The remaining 69 percent was made up of investments of less than 500 million rials. In other words, in 106 industries applied for in the private sector, priority was given to public corporations in order to provide for maximum participation by the people in factory shares, especially workers in the units.

From the beginning of the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] until 1 Bahman of 1363 [21 January 1985] a total of 786 establishment permits were issued with fixed investments of more than 15 billion rials. Seven of the establishment permits issued, with an investment volume of 2.9 billion rials from the reconstruction crusade and nationalized units. The rest of the permits, with an investment volume of 12 billion rials, were issued to the private sector.

The Ministry of Heavy Industry report states that the approved fixed investment in heavy industry for the first ten months... [text missing] ... billion rials of this investment is for 4,158 agreements in principle, with an average investment of more than 26 million rials, including participation from small industrialists and small investments for the construction of industrial units under the mantle of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. At the same time, this ministry's policy with regard to the implementation of large projects for the year 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] in itself accounted for more than 2.6 times the volume of investments approved in all industrial fields, including all heavy and light industries, for the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978].

The report adds: A comparison of the total value of the production of non-government heavy industry units, on the basis of statistics and information collected on 101 public production units which have been in operation since the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978] or went into operation before the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] shows that the total value of the production of these units in 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] increased 35 percent, and in 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] it increased 42 percent over the year 1361 [21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983]. Likewise, the level of production of some products in this sector

has also increased significantly in recent years. For example, production indicators for some heavy industry products in the private sector, including motorcycles, pipes, aluminum contours, various dampers and various kinds of cement mixers increased in the year 1362 [21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984] over the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978] with an indicator of 100 at the rates of 263, 159, 174, and 251 respectively.

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CSO: 4640/507

IRAN

MUSAVI URGES OFFICIALS TO BE MORE SENSITIVE TO MEDIA ROLE

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 24 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, on the first day of the seminar for central public relations offices, participants met with Prime Minister Engineer Musavi.

Brother Taj-Zadeh, Deputy Minister of Islamic Guidance for International Public Relations, began the meeting by reporting on the way in which this seminar was organized.

Mr Musavi then gave a talk in which he dealt with the importance and the position of public relations. He said: At the beginning of the revolution the importance of cultural work in our country was not given much attention: only the Imam of the nation was fully aware and mindful of the importance of cultural efforts, and he has discussed this matter regularly all along. The Imam of the nation continues to stress the importance of cultural work in society today, and what we are seeing is that many weaknesses are compensated for through cultural activities. Although everything that is being done in the area of art and culture is not suitable for the Islamic revolution, there has been progress on this road to an extent. The Prime Minister added: Public relations is one of the most important and basic components of each of our organizations. The richer and more extensive public relations work is, the more officials will be concerned with it and will feel a need for it and a closeness to it. The relationship of public relations offices with the people has two sides. Part of their relationship with the people is established through the press. Unfortunately, a weakness in the public relations offices is that they do not take effective steps to establish close relations with the press due to insufficient attention to the issue's importance. The press's task is to deliver interesting news to the people; the idea that the newspapers must publish whatever public relations offices give them is mistaken. The public relations offices must have the best and most extensive relations with the press and the media, and they must convey the best and most lively information to them as a matter of duty.

In another portion of his talk, the prime minister noted that the sensitivity of some officials to the importance of the work of the press is very low, while these media can play a sensitive role in explaining the necessity and dimensions of the programs and achievements of organizations. At the beginning of the implementation of every new project, society must be informed of its dimensions and importance. The prime minister considered it a revolutionary necessity to inform the people of the achievements and plans of every organization, in order to thwart the counterrevolution, give hope to the people, and attract their support.

The prime minister stressed that the public relations offices have a complex role in relationship with the people, and the secret of their success is having familiarity and sympathy with the people's pains. Public relations offices must be sensitive to issues current in society: they must

consider precisely the human aspects and events. Every official in an Islamic society must feel the pains of the people as they are in order to be able to find a solution. The assessment and transmission of the people's pains to officials is one of the basic responsibilities of public relations offices. Public relations officials must be the most sensitive and aware individuals regarding society; they must participate in the resolution of social complexities, and offer plans. Mr Musavi also stressed the necessity for the exchange of experiences among public relations officials. He said:

In order to raise the quality of public relations work, officials in organizations must make sufficient information concerning their programs and accomplishments available to the public relations offices, and they must view the public relations office as the cultural essence of every organization. We are being attacked on the propaganda front more than anywhere else. The soldiers on this front are you public relations officials and workers: you must repel the attacks and discourage the enemy. Our country's prime minister noted that the detailed programs and speeches on the radios of America, the B.B.C. of England, and the West German media against the government of the Islamic republic are in no way accidental.

It is no accident when the Red Cross spreads lies about us: all the world's media are being mobilized to blacken the face of this revolution in order to satisfy their masters. What has thwarted propaganda against the Islamic republic in the past has been the people's awareness, who have thwarted the enemy's propaganda with firm faith in the Imam, the clergy, and the officials. In the past we have had no organized program for confronting enemy propaganda: if we can work against the enemy's cultural assaults on the revolution in an organized way through the media, we will assuredly get better results thwarting these plots. In conclusion, the prime minister noted: Today we are being attacked by propaganda in the world through various newspapers and radio and television. I believe that we must strike back at the enemy blow for blow, and our media must not be indifferent to this. Why should the European newspapers publish lies about our revolution, while we say nothing about these newspapers and the regimes in these countries? In this area our media must have the best plans. The enemies of the revolution are afraid of public opinion in our country.

In view of the fact that freedom of the press in the countries of the Eastern and Western blocs is a lie, and of the relationship between the content of the press and the goals of their governments, our press and media must take strong positions against these dependent press and media.

We must continuously speak sharply and for ourselves against the enemies of the revolution: in truth the newspapers must be the spearhead of our nation's assault on imperialism, and do a good job of fulfilling their independent role in this area.

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CSO: 4640/501

IRAN

IMPORTS PASS 11 MILLION TONS DURING MARCH-DECEMBER 1984

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN Tehran BURS in Persian 26 Feb 85 p 2

[The Ministry of Roads and Transportation has issued a statement announcing that the amount of freight imported into the country in the first 10 months of the current year (21 March - 22 December 1984), not including goods transferred from place to place in urban freight, was 16.8 million tons, of which 11.1 million tons came in through the ports with the remaining 5.7 million tons coming in through the other import routes. The amount of goods brought into the country through the ports compared to the years 1361 (21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983) and 1362 (21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984) has increased 52 and 17 percent respectively. Domestic freight carried 11 percent of all imports in the first ten months of the current year increased; this is a 50 percent increase over the year 1361 (21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983) and a two percent decrease over the year 1362 (21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984). These goods were hauled into the country in 942,000 truck trips and on 39,000 rail cars. The same report says that in the first ten months of the current year freight imported into the country amounted to 15.2 million tons, 9.7 million tons, or 64 percent of all imports, coming in through the ports, the remaining 36 percent through other import routes. These import figures, in comparison with figures for the years 1361 (21 March 1982 - 20 March 1983) and 1362 (21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984) show a 29 percent increase and a 25 percent decrease, respectively. Likewise, the amount of basic goods unloaded at the ports during this period was around 6.7 million tons; including an additional 1.3 million tons of basic goods brought into the country through land routes, the total is around eight million tons. This figure is one percent higher than scheduled, and includes 320,000 tons of goods now being unloaded at the docks and 369,000 tons waiting to be unloaded. According to the same report, the amount of basic goods brought into the country's geographical area in the first ten months of the current year also reached 8.7 million tons, which is 10 percent more than planned. Based on existing statistics, the increased freight through all import routes has caused 1.4 million tons of sedimentary goods to be imported through the ports and 166,000 tons of sedimentary goods to be imported through other land access routes.

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CSO: 4640/501

IRAN

PROJECT UNDER STUDY TO ASSEMBLE FIAT

Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] Mr Kazem-Pur Ardebili, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economics and International Affairs, gave a press conference after his four-day trip to Italy and answered various questions from correspondents. Having been in Italy since last Wednesday at the head of a political and economic delegation, he discussed existing economic relations between the two countries in the areas of development and industrial production projects, such as the Martyr Raja'i Dock Project at Bandar 'Abbas, the Esfahan Mobarakeh Steel Project, several electrical power and transmission projects, and he also enumerated several areas of activity for important Italian companies in Iran.

In this regard, Mr Kazem-Pur discussed the pipeline project to carry Iranian gas through Turkey and Greece to Italy, mentioning the names of several European countries that will be cooperating with the two countries in the future. He added: The length of this pipeline is 4,000 kilometers. It will connect to the Mediterranean through the Port of Eskanderun. This project, which will cost around 10 billion dollars according to preliminary studies, will deliver 50 billion cubic meters of gas annually to the European market. In this regard, the cooperation of several Italian companies with the Islamic Republic of Iran will be studied. Likewise, proposals from Italian automobile production factories such as the Fiat Company for the production of Model 121 automobiles, some construction and road building machinery, and mini-busses, are being studied by economic officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. If it is determined that the proposals are suitable, a new door will be opened in economic relations between the two countries.

He then commented on the situation with the imposed war and recent reports from the United Nations delegation. He said: We have declared repeatedly that we had no desire to start the war. Iraq's invasion took place while our people were rebuilding the country.

Mr Ardebili then discussed various unrealistic resolutions issued by United Nations Security Council since the beginning of the imposed war concerning Iran, and Iraq's violation of the 1925 and 1949 resolutions, and he considered its failure to answer the Secretary General of the United Nations request that it not bomb residential areas or use chemical weapons in Iran, which Iran accepted unilaterally, as the reason for the Zionist regime of Iraq's decision to use these inhumane methods in the future. Kazem-Pur was asked for his assessment of the Western press and media's support of the hypocrite's organization, which calls itself progressive and leftist. He said: If terrorists like the Red Brigade, the Badern Meinhoff, and other terrorist groups in Europe, or the counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua are progressive leftists, this terrorist organization is also progressive leftist. It must be asked in what way it is progressive leftist, and how it came to receive the support of the most rightist American senators..

This terrorist organization is responsible for the assassination of a large number of national officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and is responsible for the killing of thousands of innocent people in our country, and it has no popular support in the country.

IRAN

BRIEFS

HOUSING UNITS TRANSFER—Through the efforts of workers of the Foundation for the Oppressed in the Province of East Azarbaijan, 750 housing units have been completed since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in various parts of this province and turned over to qualified applicants, and a project for the construction of 80 apartments is also being implemented. The supervisor of this province's Foundation for the Oppressed gave an exclusive interview to a correspondent from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY. While announcing this, he discussed this organization's future activities and plans. He said: At the present time a project to build two production factories for industrial and agricultural polyethylene and machined bricks, as well as a project to expand factories affiliated with this foundation, such as the Laleh Towel Factory and the Fard Beverage Factory are being carried out by this foundation. He said: In the implementation of these projects, 80 percent of the construction work has been completed on the new Laleh Towel Factory, and some of the machinery it needs has also been purchased and will be installed and utilized in the near future. The supervisor of the Foundation for the Oppressed of East Azarbaijan then discussed activities of some of this organization's mines. He said: At the present time 250 tons of red travertine are being extracted monthly from the mines of Setanabad and Sardarabad of the city of Azar and exported to other countries. Likewise the Dash Kusan lime and marble mines of the city of Azar, the Jaffa salt marble mines, the salt mines of Sorab, and the chalk and red lime mines of Hastrud are being satisfactorily exploited. Concluding the interview, he mentioned 600 million rials of the foundation's previous debts, as well as grants to affiliated units in the amount of 50 million rials, among other activities of this foundation. With regard to the participation of this foundation's workers in the imposed war, he said: In this regard, in addition to sending tens of units of light and heavy machinery to the fronts, more than 80 million rials in cash and more than 100 committed people have been sent to the various fronts. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 5 Mar 85 pp 1,5] 9310

CSO: 4640/507

NEPAL

BRIEFS

ALGERIAN ENVOY NAMED--Mr Abderrahmane Ben Sid has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to the King of Nepal, according to the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr Ben Sid resides in New Delhi. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 1 Apr 84 p 1]

MAURITIUS ENVOY NAMED--His majesty the king has appointed royal Nepalese ambassador to India Jagadish Shumsher J.B.R. as royal Nepalese ambassador to Mauritius also. [Excerpt] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 19 Mar 85 p 1]

FINNISH ENVOY NAMED--Mr Jan Henrik Groop has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Finland to the Kingdom of Nepal according to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued here Wednesday. Mr Groop resides in New Delhi. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Mar 85 p 1]

CSO: 4600/378

PAKISTAN

PRESIDENT ZIA'S AUTHORITY TO AMEND CONSTITUTION QUESTIONED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 21 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "President Zia Cannot Be The Constitution Maker"]

[Text] President Qiaul Haq has given assurance that no basic changes will be made in the 1973 constitution. Even though an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion persists, we are prepared to hope that President Zia will remain true to his promise and in the matter of constitutional amendments he will not turn his back on his promises. The reason for doubt is that the draft for constitutional amendments that the government has prepared according to its own wishes is still kept secret. It is not known whether it will be announced before the elections, during the elections or after. It is also not known whether according to the amendments under consideration, the assembly will have powers and real supremacy or whether the position of president will be above or superior to the assembly. National Security Council and its relative position is also an important issue. All these factors will determine whether the basic, i.e. the parliamentary nature of the 1973 constitution is maintained. Otherwise changing the parliamentary system into a presidential system will be taken to mean that not only a basic change has been brought about in the 1973 constitution but that the constitution has been completely altered and the old constitution has been destroyed and a new one created. This will not be acceptable from any point of view, legal or political.

It can be said that after the referendum, the presidential system has been adopted and that the 1973 constitution no longer exists. But in this country two attitudes were adopted towards the referendum. According to one, the referendum was completely unacceptable and it was branded unconstitutional. According to the other, the referendum was accepted conditionally and the top most condition was the proviso that no such meaning or interpretation be attached to the referendum that could go against the 1973 constitution. For this reason the requirements of 1973 constitution take priority over the referendum. And whatever conclusions are drawn from the referendum, these will not grant President Ziaul Haq permission to go against the fundamental principles of the 1973 constitution. The authority that the president derives from the referendum is limited solely to holding elections under the 1973 constitution and after the elections to end martial law and, as required by the constitution, to function as a civilian president of the country. Although

he can amend the constitution to balance powers between the president and the prime minister, such amendments must not be against the spirit of the constitution or the requirements of parliamentary system.

So far as Tehrik-e Islami is concerned, its vice-president, Chaudhary Rehmat Ilahi, while expressing his party's point of view on powers of parliament and constitutional amendments, said that his party regards parliament as the highest institution of the land, next only to the Koran and the Islamic law. "What we say is that though the first parliament will hold its first session under orders of martial law, the martial law should end before the close of the session. After elections there will be a change in the situation and those who believe that they can keep control of authority and the situation will be disillusioned." Referring to constitutional amendments, the vice-president of the Tehrik stated that in principle constitutional amendments should be through the parliament. If however any amendments are unavoidable, the political elements should be taken into confidence in this matter. At the time of referendum President Zia had accepted Jamaat-e Islami's conditions that the assemblies will be vested with powers under the 1973 constitution, authority of prime minister will be in accordance with his status and the president will not be made an authoritarian figure. And if the president's amendments do not meet these conditions, we will not tolerate them. Another leader of the Tehrik, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi has also said that although in principle the authority to amend constitution should be vested only with the parliament, we have, because of compelling circumstances, supported the amendments balancing powers between the president and prime minister. In this connection our stand is that any such amendment should be within the limits suggested by the opposition constitutional committee on powers of president and the prime minister at the time of drawing up of 1973 constitution. Another leader of the Tehrik-e Islami, Mr Munawwar Hassan stated that his party's point of view was that we do not consider president's unilateral constitutional amendments to be appropriate. He has no such legal or traditional rights and constitutional issues are not a plaything that they can be left to the wishes of a single person.

These statements from leaders of the Tehrik-e Islami on the question of constitutional amendments serve as a warning. It means that if leaders of Jamaat-e Islami have accepted referendum, President Zia in turn has agreed to abide by the 1973 amendments. The president's position is not that of a free constitution-maker who is empowered to change old laws into new laws. That is why we welcome assurance on the part of the President Ziaul Haq that he will not announce any amendments contrary to the fundamental principles of the 1973 constitution. We pray to God that the president stays firm on his assurance, otherwise the political problems of this country will take a very serious, dangerous and critical shape.

12286

CSO: 4656/93

PAKISTAN

PAPER DENOUNCES SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S ANTI-PAKISTAN REMARKS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 17 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "For Mr Smirnov"]

/Text/ The manner in which the Russian ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Smirnov, in his capacity as chief guest in various meetings and functions, not only bluntly criticizes Pakistan's foreign policy but also freely condemns and denounces Pakistan's government and its policies is a completely new phenomenon the like of which has not been seen anywhere else. One possible reason for this is that this way he wants to pat the backs of Russian agents and supporters in Pakistan. It is also possible that by adopting this tough and harsh attitude he wants to intimidate the public opinion and to vitiate the political atmosphere here. It is also possible that he is adopting this aggressive posture in order to divert attention from Russia's role as the culprit in Afghanistan. Maybe his remarks are motivated by all these three factors. There is absolutely no reason for us to get upset however, The Russian envoy is welcome to indulge his desires to his heart's content but let him understand it clearly that this way he cannot bring Pakistan closer to Russia and in fact it will have harmful effects on Pakistan-U.S.S.R. relations.

In his capacity as ambassador it is not the duty of Mr Smirnov to win renown as the severest critic of Pakistan's social and political life or to make speeches to provide relief to the angry and restless elements in the country. In fact, on his shoulders lies the heavy responsibility that he should work so that Russian-Pakistani relations become pleasant or at least the seriousness of their differences on various issues is lessened. We are sorry to note that the Russian envoy is taking exactly the opposite road. We would have no quarrel with this attitude had we been the supporters of permanently bad and strained relations between Russia and Pakistan. We hold the view that better relations between Russia and Pakistan are an urgent need of both the countries and, had it not been for the Afghanistan problem, the voice of people desiring closer relations would have been received with better attention and in a more appropriate manner. Despite the Afghanistan issue it is the common desire of Pakistanis to have good relations with Russia and to hope that once the Afghanistan issue is peacefully resolved, the two countries could embark on a new era of cooperation based on good neighborliness and close relations. But the way Mr Smirnov goes on making poisonous speeches, it looks as though between Russia and Pakistan there is permanent enmity which

will never end and under no conditions is Russia prepared to 'forgive' Pakistan. Is this really true? And the way Mr Smirnov has become the spokesman of the attitude of enmity, is it in accordance with the policy of Moscow? This is a question to which we do not want to offer any reply and it will be fitting that the Russian government and its envoy ponder over the question.

Now that we have referred to the hostile speeches of Russian envoy let us have a look on the differences between Russia and Pakistan on the subject of freedom of expression. Pakistan, as you know, is under martial law and the worst one can imagine in the area of political and civic liberties is true. But even this worst situation is incomparably superior to the best conditions in Russia where, not to mention ordinary citizens, even Mr Smirnov does not have the same freedom of expression as he enjoys in Pakistan and which he demonstrates from time to time. Would that Mr Smirnov was free to express his thoughts against the government of the day in a free and blunt manner in Russia and the Pakistani ambassador in Moscow had the same right. Anyway, it is alright if the Pakistani ambassador does not have the right to express his opinion on Afghanistan issue in any meeting in the Soviet Union, but the tragedy is that even the Russian thinkers, and writers do not have the least right to speak a word against the government. In other words, outside the socialist world, the countries with the worst record in freedom of expression are far better off than Russia. It would only be fitting if Mr Smirnov feels overwhelmed by this indignity and hangs his head down in shame.

By all this we do not mean that we are not aware of the drawbacks of the Western capitalist system and the real achievements of the Russian and Chinese socialist system. It is true that western freedom of thought produced unique works of imagination and creation and the western system, in spite of the blessings of intellectual freedom, is headed towards complete moral bankruptcy. On the other hand, the socialist system has arranged food, shelter and clothing for every person. Even from moral point of view, it is superior to the western society though this superiority appears to be on the wane. It is possible that this slide may be stopped but the complete deprivation of intellectual freedom is a curse for which there is no cure. In this regard, leave aside democratic nations, Russia cannot compare even with a country like Pakistan which is under military dictatorship.

We may put forward another idea if Mr Smirnov would consider it. If he really wants to improve relations between Russia and Pakistan, the creditable venture, just as it would be thwarted by the mental slaves of the West, would be hindered by the mental slaves and supporters of Russia. They have been an obstacle in the way and will be so in the future. For Russia the first step to better relations with Pakistan would be to move out of the circle of both kind of mental slaves and to recognize and understand the thinking of those true Pakistanis who represent Islamic thinking and temper. The result of ignoring them has been that to this day Russia and Pakistan have been moving

away from each other. If this process continues, the gulf will never be bridged and tension will continue to mount. This has done no good either to Pakistan or to Russia and this tension has been growing because of Mr Smirnov's remarks. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, no one in Pakistan believes that either Afghanistan or Pakistan should be cast in the role of Russia's enemy. All that Pakistan wants is that Russian troops should leave Afghanistan, thus enabling Afghanistan as a free country to have good relations with both Russia and Pakistan. This will also remove an obstacle in the way of happy relations with Russia. Then Pakistan and Afghanistan will also have fraternal relations. But in the way of Pakistan's desire for happy relations with Russia is India-Russia relations. For Russia the problem is that it wants to please India at all costs so that India may not join the American camp. On this basis it is necessary for Russia to have, and to demonstrate, bad and strained relations with Pakistan. In the meantime, if no progress can be made towards better relations, at least the Russian propaganda tending to further aggravate the situation can surely be stopped.

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PAKISTAN

NOMINATION OF SIND CHIEF MINISTER FROM OUTSIDE ASSEMBLY CRITICIZED

GF121303 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 7 Apr 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The Sind Chief Minister--A Wrong Precedent"]

[Excerpts] Mr Justice Ghous Ali Shah, Sind's minister for law and civic affairs, has officially been nominated as Sind chief minister. He has taken the oath of office. Mr Ghous Ali Shah is not a member of the Sind assembly and an undemocratic precedent has been set in a partyless assembly--that the chief minister is not a member of the National Assembly.

We are astonished that from among the large number of members of the Sind assembly, there was not a single member who appeared suitable for this post, although it is a fact that among the candidates there was Pir Sibghatullah, son of the Pir of Pagaro [leader of a defunct party] Shafqat Jamote, and Aijaz Ali Talpur. Even if one name could not be agreed upon, a session of the house could have been summoned and a decision could have been taken or an opinion poll or a secret ballot could have been arranged whereby the people would have had a chance to select their own leader. Contrary to the wishes of the members of the National Assembly the Sind governor nominated Mr Ghous Ali Shah as the chief minister, saying that once before an outsider had been nominated as the chief minister. [passage omitted]

We feel that the Sind government's decision has been forcibly imposed on the people. The nomination of an individual as a chief minister for whom the people have not voted and who was not elected from any circle is tantamount to vetoing the people's decision. This gives the impression that the government could not find even one person in the assembly who would administer the province according to its own wishes. Each candidate for this post had clear political affiliations and opinions and definite views on the need to end martial law and the restitution of democracy which were not acceptable to the government, hence an outsider was brought on the pretext of "cliques in the assembly."

The above-mentioned action by the government is not only contrary to the traditions of democracy, but is also a source of consternation to the members. There are old veteran parliamentarians in the assembly and highly educated individuals as well, but they have been ignored as they did not conform to the government's criteria.

We do not feel any qualms in presenting this analysis, compiled after much forethought, as the above decision will have negative effects on the policy in Sind. [passage omitted]

PAKISTAN

JATOI'S REMARKS, PROPOSALS DISCUSSED

GF170730 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 12 Apr 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The 14 Points"]

[Excerpts] The former Sind chief minister and now the leader of the MRD, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, in his "Meet the Press" program spoke to correspondents and said that he had presented a 14-point program to the newly elected members of the National Assembly. He said: If the members of the assembly fail to implement the 14-point program, then the elections should be held again. [passage omitted covered in ref]

Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has given the government 2 to 3 months to implement his demands. He has said that if during this period the newly elected members are unable to implement these demands, then a campaign will be started to hold new elections for the legislative assembly.

Although Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has presented these 14 points in his capacity as an individual, these cannot be called the official MRD manifesto, but numerous other leaders of the parties which are members of the MRD have expressed their support for these points. It is expected that these 14 points will be discussed at the next MRD session and that they might be incorporated into the official MRD manifesto.

The 14 points presented by Mr Jatoi can be called the voice of the people if the government adopts a generous attitude and attempts to resolve national issues with mutual compromise. Except for one or two points which the government has moved too far away from, these points can be implemented without any hindrances. And even on those one or two points, some sort of mutually acceptable solution can be found through discussion. [passage omitted]

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PAKISTAN

JUNEJO SPEECH ANALYZED

GF051404 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 2 Apr 85 p 3

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Junejo has spoken at length on national and international issues in his maiden speech on radio and television.

Undoubtedly the tone adopted by the prime minister regarding politicians is commendable. We have always seen and heard that most of the governments in office had made the politicians the target of their taunts and criticism. They have refused to accept their right to differ and it has been said that whatever ills existed in the past were due to these politicians. We feel that by calling the politicians "patriots" Prime Minister Junejo has recognized their right to differ and by appealing for their cooperation, he has attempted to reduce to a great extent, the atmosphere of bitterness. He is a politician himself and in order to restore the prestige of the politicians and reach a compromise through negotiations is in itself a democratic process and is also essential in the face of the problems that face Mr Junejo.

An important factor mentioned by the prime minister while speaking on national issues was that his government would be a national one, not one of a particular party. This must have definitely shattered the dreams of certain circles. In any case it is a fact that Prime Minister Junejo's nomination was made in the light of his personal merits and individual qualities. He was not the nominated candidate of any particular party and the elections were not held on a party basis either. Even the vote of confidence he received unanimously from the National Assembly was given to him in his individual capacity. In this nexus of events, the establishment of a government on a national [not a party] basis becomes inevitable and by announcing this as such, he has nipped many problems in the bud before they could even rear their heads.

The prime minister has promised to resolve all problems in his speech, regarding which it can be said that those issues were brought to light which the martial law government was not able to eradicate in 8 years and this is its greatest failure. Despite martial law's extensive power bribery increased instead of decreasing, basic amenities could not be provided to the rural population, potable water was not available in many areas, temporary settlements were ignored and hundreds of thousands of acres of land were allowed to be wasted due to salinity and waterlogging. This part of the

prime minister's speech exposes the mirage of the martial law government's performance during its 8 years in power.

On the whole, the prime minister's speech can be considered hopeful. He has made some promises and laid some facts before the nation openly and without any trimmings or innuendoes; he has stated his intentions simply. Those who were expecting sensational revelations from his speech must certainly have been disappointed but we feel that it would not have been appropriate if he had made any sensational utterances or any major decision at this juncture merely in order to obtain temporary adulation for himself.

As regards the promises he has made on democracy, people's rights, their problems and the powers of the judiciary their fulfillment depends on the extent and nature of his powers in the future and for which we shall have to wait awhile. The prime minister had said himself recently while talking to newsmen that time will show everything, as well as, how many powers I have.

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PAKISTAN

POLITICIANS URGED TO FORMULATE NEW POLICY

GF091754 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 3 Apr 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Politicians Should Adopt New Policies"]

[Excerpts] The chief of the defunct Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Pakistan Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani told correspondents on his release that politicians will have to change their policies because circumstances have changed, as have the demands of politics. He said that the newly elected members of the National Assembly should do something concrete to raise their voices for the rights of the people. He said: We are going to sit outside the assembly and watch whether the newly elected members strive for the rights of the voters or for their own personal interests.

We feel that Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani has alluded to an important point. Those politicians who have been away from the election campaign because of the government's policy or their own lack of planning should now admit that the country is not willing to start any new campaign or that the direction of the decisions taken can be turned to suit their own interests by means of a public campaign.

The people have been responsible for the success of those persons who promised the end of martial law in the country and the restitution of democracy and the basic rights of the people. Now, as Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani has stated, these members are dutybound to play their role in fulfilling the promises made to the people and those politicians who are outside the assembly, whether they belong to the MRD or not, should adopt a new policy. Besides this, their national role now depends on the newly elected members. If the latter are successful in terminating martial law in the country and the process of the restitution of rights begins, then nothing remains for the politicians outside the National Assembly.

It is ironical that our politicians are drifting with the tide and are looking for the light at the end of the tunnel. Events and circumstances are now beyond their control, hence they have no choice but to formulate a new policy. Other politicians, including Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, have accepted this fact. However, in drawing up a new policy, it should be borne in mind that conditions and demands have changed and that the country cannot bear any more trouble and dissension. A part of the new policy could be for the politicians to guide those who are in the assembly. Whether they do so or whether they receive guidance from those within depends on their own perceptiveness.

PAKISTAN

TIES WITH SRI LANKA LAUDED

GF061440 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 31 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Friendly Ties With Sri Lanka"]

[Excerpts] The Sri Lankan president has been in Pakistan for a week and the warm welcome accorded to him is undoubtedly evidence of the friendly ties between the two countries.

The basic factor in the relations between the two countries is that there is complete unanimity of views on international issues and both the countries desire that countries should adopt a uniform stand on ending the arms race and concentrating all attention on improving the lot of the citizens of all the countries. Pakistan has always supported Sri Lanka's sovereignty and independence. When the Tamil secessionists reared their heads in Sri Lanka and some foreign countries supported them in subversive activities against the government, Pakistan expressed its disapproval and deemed it interference in Sri Lankan affairs.

There is no doubt that the Sri Lankan government's efforts to solve the Tamil issue are commendable but the task has been rendered difficult because of foreign support for secessionists. If all the countries of the region remain firm on the policy of nonintervention in another's internal affairs then such insurgence can be curbed.

It is hoped that President Jayawardene's visit to Pakistan will be instrumental in bringing the people of the two countries closer together, trade ties will expand and cultural delegations will be exchanged and since there is complete harmony between the two countries on international issues, it will help in fostering peace and security in the region.

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PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

PRC DELEGATION ARRIVES--A high-level Chinese delegation, led by the Minister in Charge of the Family Planning Commission, Wang Wei, arrived in Karachi from Beijing last night. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Apr 85 BK]

FAMILY PLANNING AGREEMENT WITH PRC--Pakistan and China signed a protocol for cooperation in the field of family planning in Islamabad today. The agreement was signed for China by Wang Wei, minister in charge of China's Family Planning Commission, and for Pakistan by the Federal Minister for Finance and Planning. Under the protocol, the two countries have agreed to cooperate in various fields, including the proper education and publicity in family planning; strengthening of services at the grass-roots level, and undertaking research in various techniques of population planning. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Apr 85 BK]

AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT--Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq has been appointed Pakistani ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 4 Apr 85 BK]

CHINESE AID ON TEA--China will assist Pakistan in setting up a national tea research institute and increasing tea production. Under an agreement signed in Islamabad, Chinese tea experts will provide technical know-how and services to the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council to set up the research institute in Mansera Division. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Apr 85 BK]

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